

ESSAYS

ON THE

VENEREAL DISEASE,

BY

WILLIAM BLAIR.

ESSAYS

NO. 20



VENERABLE

BY

WILLIAM BLAIR.

ESSAYS
ON THE
VENEREAL DISEASE
AND ITS
CONCOMITANT AFFECTIONS.

BY WILLIAM BLAIR, A. M.

Surgeon of the Lock Hospital and Finsbury Dispensary, &c.

FIRST PART of the FIRST ESSAY.

On the antivenereal Effects of Nitrous Acid and other analogous Remedies; exhibiting a Summary of the Evidence adduced by various Practitioners, with sixty-one original Cases.

A NEW ÉDITION, CORRECTED.

"Attaquer une erreur est le droit commun à tous les hommes; en médecine, c'est un devoir: et celui qui s'est consacré à la conservation des citoyens, ne doit pas craindre de s'élever contre les préjugés dont il connaît les dangers; sur-tout, quand il peut leur substituer une vérité utile."

J. S. Mitlié.

L O N D O N:

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ERRATUM.

Page 68, line 17; for none read some.

PREFACE.

WHILE every branch of medicine continues in a state of progression, it cannot be deemed presumptuous to suppose there is still room to improve the treatment of venereal affections. The remark of SENECA on another occasion is equally applicable on the present, "Multum egerunt qui ante nos
" fuerunt, sed non peregerunt: Multum
" adhuc restat operis, multumque restabit;
" neque ulli nato post mille secula, unquam
" precidetur occasio boni aliquid adjiciendi."

My situation, as Surgeon of an establishment *exclusively* * appropriated to the cure of the Lues Venerea, affords me daily opportunities of treating a greater variety of cases than falls to the lot of practitioners in general: I therefore thought it my duty to institute a fair and extensive trial of the new antivenereal remedies, in every stage of this disease,

* At an average, about five hundred and twenty patients have been annually relieved at the LOCK HOSPITAL, since its first institution in 1746; the greater part of whom were admitted in the most wretched state of disease and misery, without resource and without hope. There are ninety-six beds, for the accommodation of persons of both sexes: Beside which, an institution, supported by a separate contribution, was established in the year 1787, under the title of the LOCK ASYLUM, for the reception of penitent females cured in the hospital; where they are clothed, maintained, employed, and instructed, till they can be restored to their friends, or to the community, in a way of honest industry. On every account, the Lock Hospital and Asylum are entitled to the liberal assistance of the public; but especially, as they are conducted upon such principles as must operate powerfully against the progress of vice, and as an encouragement to virtuous habits.

disease, and to lay the result of my observations before the public.

I had been for some time preparing to illustrate the origin, progress, and natural history of Syphilis, and indeed had made considerable advances in my enquiry, when MR. SCOTT'S report on the nitric acid was introduced to the medical world: The general attention it excited, and its great importance as a practical question, induced me to bring forward the subject prior to that which I had planned.

Nearly eight months have elapsed, since the former edition of these cases was published: I then expected to have been able, in a short time, to complete another collection, tending to elucidate the same object of enquiry. But unforeseen delays having prevented the accomplishment of my wishes, it now becomes necessary for me to request the indulgence of those gentlemen who have
honoured

honoured me with communications. Very soon, however, I hope to receive the remaining cases promised by my correspondents, which will enable me to bring the *second part* of this Essay to a conclusion.

The uncommon success of several surgeons, in their late experience with the acid (especially at the Woolwich Hospital) has induced me to select a few well marked examples of Lues Venerea, for the purpose of repeating my observations, and of discovering any error or defect there might possibly have been in my practice last year. But no alteration whatever has taken place in my opinion, in consequence of these renewed trials: I therefore still conclude that the advocates for the acid are greatly deceiving themselves, and that too little discrimination has been used in ascertaining the *real* merits of Mr. SCOTT's plan. As a general substitute for mercury in the treatment of syphilis, it is certainly inadmissible. Its efficacy may
be

be most depended on, in cases where a venereal taint is least capable of proof.

Although we are in possession of abundant evidence to establish the occasional utility of the oxygenated remedies, it does not yet appear, from the facts brought forward, that their *antivenereal* power is likely to be demonstrated. If every medicine which has been found beneficial in the ambiguous forms of Lues Venerea, were to be dignified with the appellation of "an antidote or a specific" against that disease, the class of antivenereals (*i. e.* medicines which destroy the syphilitic virus) would be augmented *ad infinitum*. In this sense of the term, which is too loose to be admitted, antivenereal remedies may be found in the animal, the vegetable, and the mineral kingdom: Alkalies as well as acids, at this rate, might be called *antivenereals*; and the greatest possible confusion would arise, in our pathological reasoning. But, the leading question is not whether the
number

number of antisyphilitic remedies shall be multiplied by the introduction of the acids, &c. which may be regarded as a matter of inferior consideration : The main point, I apprehend, is to determine whether or not mercury deserves to be banished, and the new plan of treatment adopted in its stead? This, surely, is the grand practical question at issue, the question originally agitated by Mr. Scott, and still remaining *sub judice*: How far the following statement of facts will go toward determining this point, must be left to the reader's judgment : It will be found that of twenty-four cases, with primary symptoms of the Lues Venerea, *only two* were successfully treated ; and of thirty-seven cases, with secondary symptoms, *not one* could be cured with the new remedies. My subsequent experience, together with that of various other practitioners, (containing the result of several hundred more trials,) will be speedily laid before the public.

WILLIAM BLAIR.

Great Russel Street,
Bloomsbury Square.
February, 1799.

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ESSAY the FIRST.

PART the FIRST:

On the new antivenereal remedies;

CHAPTER I.

Preliminary Observations.

THREE centuries have elapsed since the introduction of mercury for the cure of the Venereal Disease; during which period, a variety of other remedies have been proposed, as substitutes for that mineral. Among these, certain vegetable productions have gained the greatest number of advocates; but, on making a fair and extensive trial of their comparative virtues, mankind are almost universally persuaded, that, at present, we are in possession of no antivenereal remedy so efficacious

as mercury. The inconveniences, however, which sometimes arise from the injudicious administration of this medicine, have left room for a reasonable wish that we could obtain a milder antidote against the syphilitic virus.

A NEW SPECIFIC has lately been offered to the world, which, (if we may believe its adherents) is not only less noxious to the constitution of our patients, but even more certain and more expeditious in producing its good effects, than mercury itself; and which, consequently, is found to be in all respects its superior. "In a few years" (says one of these gentlemen) "I think that mercury, as a remedy for the Lues Venerea will be banished by the nitric acid; and that the poison of Syphilis may, in a great measure, be extinguished over the face of the earth."

We have been so frequently amused and deceived with the cry of "*a new specific*;" that, while I join heartily in the general wish for one in the Venereal Disease, I cannot forbear suggesting the probable mischief which a pretension of this kind must occasion, before its fallacy be detected; especially if
men

men of reputation and known talents combine in extolling an uncertain remedy, while we are in the actual possession of an almost infallible one.

“ *The use of OPIUM, as a specific in the venereal disease,*” was much insisted on, by several practitioners of eminence, about eighteen years ago. Opium was then said to have performed wonders, where mercury had never been used, and in various stages of the disorder. Although its success was not absolutely certain, the proportion of successful cases to those in which this remedy did not effect a cure, was related to be as three to one; and among those in which it failed, there were many wherein mercury proved equally ineffectual. Numerous instances of reputed cures (*a*) are still on record, and may therefore be examined in all their circumstances. Nor were these merely temporary effects: For, after a long period of time, numbers of patients experienced no relapse; and, consequently, there was the highest probability of their having been perfectly cured.—What can be said to all this?

That

(*a*) Published by Dr. Schæpf, Dr. Michaelis, Mr. Grant, &c. &c.

That opium is a specific ? Or, that medical men joined in propagating wilful falsehoods ? No surely ; But, that gentlemen were not sufficiently accurate in conducting their experiments, and in selecting the subjects of them ; so that although they published only what they believed to be strictly true, mankind were obliged, by contrary evidence and farther examination, to reject the remedy as totally inadequate in a GENUINE SYPHILIS.

The improvement we should make of such instances of human imbecility, is to fortify our minds against the first impression of captivating reports, and to enquire deliberately into the grounds or proofs by which they are supported. To resume, therefore, the subject of *nitric acid* ; which is now offered to the world as greatly superior to mercury : My present design is, to investigate the real merits of this new plan of treatment, with all possible candour and circumspection.

The introduction of a new medicine is usually accompanied with difficulties. There is danger, on one side, lest its virtues should be exaggerated beyond the limits of truth, through the zeal and
preci-

precipitancy (b) of its advocates; while, on the other hand, there is cause to apprehend that its real merits may be denied, by supercilious and prejudiced practitioners: In either case, it must fall into undeserved discredit.

Although I will not say, with Dr. Beddoes, "I rejoice that a controversy is likely to arise," I have no hesitation in agreeing with him, "that the interest of the public requires the evidence should be rigorously scrutinized (c):" The necessity of the case must, therefore, be my apology for the freedom of this investigation.

In prosecuting so important an enquiry, I hope full credit will be given me when I declare that I do
not

(b) "Si la médecine en effet est si peu avancée, ou si la pratique est en général si dangereuse, c'est par l'inexactitude qu'on porte presque toujours dans l'observation des faits; c'est par la légèreté avec laquelle on se décide en faveur d'un remède qu'on veut mettre en vogue, et dont on est toujours disposé à exagérer les vertus."—*La Médecine Eclairée*, Tom. 4. p. 102.

(c) See a letter from Dr. Beddoes in the *Monthly Magazine* for November 1797.

not intend to depreciate the character of any gentleman in the profession. But, in my researches after truth, I am obliged to lose sight of authorities, and simply attach myself to matters of fact.—Amicus Plato, amicus Socrates, sed magis amica Veritas.

The mode lately recommended, of curing the Venereal Disease by means of acids, although it commonly passes for a modern discovery, is not so new as is generally believed. Without insisting on a passage of FRACASTORIUS, in the second Book of his elegant Poem, (*d*) where he strongly recommends the use of *Lemons*, I may suggest that acids were employed externally for the cure of Syphilis, by some of the oldest writers on this disorder; and they were
given

-
- “ (*d*) Sed neque carminibus neglecta silebere nostris
 “ Hesperidum decus, & Medarum gloria CITRE
 “ Sylvarum: si fortè sacris cantata poëtis
 “ Parte quoque hâc medicam non dedignabere Musam,
 “ Sic tibi sit semper viridis coma, semper opaca,
 “ Semper flore novo redolens, sic semper honesta
 “ Per viridem pomis sylvam pendentibus aureis.
 “ Ergò, ubi nitendum est cæcis te opponere morbi
 “ Seminibus, *vi mira arbor Cithereia præstat.*
 “ Quippe illam Citherea, suum dùm plorat Adonim,
 “ Munere donavit multo, & virtutibus auxit.”

given internally, for the same purpose, about the beginning of the present century, if not earlier.

Dr. Daniel Turner, in his "Practical dissertation on the Venereal Disease," (e) mentions the following case of a patient who had been treated by a course of vegetable acids. "Being at one time in company with that excellent practitioner Mr. Charles Bernard, a gentleman came into his study, as I had reason to believe, upon some private business; upon which, I retired into another room, when in a few minutes he came to me, and desired me to come and see the effects of a new method of curing the pox. The patient had been for two months under the care of a noted *Philo-acidus*, who placed the cause of this (and I think most other diseases) in an Alkaly, for a light infection therefrom: In order to eradicate which, he was advised to eat half a dozen of the largest lemons he could get, daily, besides good store of verjuice at his meals, which method (after some other prescriptions) was to be continued for a month; by which time, instead of

c

his

(e) Edition 5th, part 1st, page 33.

“ his cure, he found himself crusted over with in-
“ veterate scabs and other pustules; yet was told that
“ he was well, and that these would scale away of
“ themselves; which he was ordered by the gen-
“ tleman he now came to consult, that he would
“ make trial of; as he did a little while, till some
“ ulcers growing corrosive, and eating farther in,
“ by reason of the acrimony of the humours un-
“ derneath, forced him to comply with a mercurical
“ ptyalism, under this artist's care, by which his
“ cure was soon compleated.”

The same author likewise notices an opposite sect of practitioners, the *Miso-acidi*, whose theory led them to the use of alkaline remedies in the Lues Venerea: He then suggests, that “ by being obstinately wedded to some mere hypothesis, or affecting a chymical philosophic babbling, sub-jecting medicine (which is incompatible) to a mathematick standard, and amusing the patient with a jargon of hard words, you may very probably do mischief, if not utterly destroy him.”

The illustrious Chancellor BACON, in his masterly work *De Augmentis Scientiarum*, mentions it

as one of the diseases of Authors that they “ often
“ infect their speculations and doctrines with some
“ peculiar opinions they happen to be fond of, or
“ the particular sciences to which they have most
“ applied.” Hence, the mechanical physicians have
had their day, and the chymists are again assuming
the right of combating diseases upon their own
peculiar principles.

Though the nonsense of Paracelsus and Van Helmont is superseded by the phraseology of modern illumination, it may be questioned, perhaps, whether either of them have facilitated the cure of diseases. I am very far from insinuating that experimental chymistry has been useless in the practice of medicine; but I would guard young practitioners against that licentious spirit of innovation which has bewitched some of our speculative enquirers after knowledge. “ Nihil magis à vera
“ morborum cognitione mentem retrahit, quàm
“ effrænis illa speculandi disputandique licentia,
“ cui in ipsa praxi adeò indulgere medici Arabes,
“ et quotquot post eos fuere Galenici.” (f)

c 2

This

(f) Praxeos Medicæ, Bagliv. Lib. i. chap. 1. § 6.

This judicious remark of Baglivi deserves attention, in the present inquisitive age.

In order to do justice to the subject on which I am writing, and to make a fair estimate of the value of the new antivenereal remedies; it will be proper in the first place, to state the facts by which their efficacy is supported, in as concise and perspicuous a manner as possible: The reader will then be prepared to form an idea of the pretensions they have to public notice.

Afterwards, the evidence *è contra* will be brought forward; and some additional cases will be recited, which have never before been published: An attempt will next be made, to adjust the apparent incongruities of certain reports on this subject; and lastly, a few practical inferences will be drawn from the whole.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER II.

A Summary view of the Attestations which have been hitherto borne to the efficacy of the new Antivenereal Remedies.

SECTION the First. *Mr. Scott's Testimony.*

IT is well known that all the calces of mercury, used in medicine, contain a portion of oxygen or pure air; and it was some years ago suggested by Dr. Girtanner, of Göttingen, that to the operation of this active principle we are indebted for the cure of Syphilis, when mercury has been administered: But Mr. W. Scott, surgeon in the East India Company's service, at Bombay, first endeavoured to verify this doctrine by actual experiment. The nitric acid, (g) containing about four parts of pure air and one of azot, was the first substance that occurred to him, as being fit for a course of experiments in the Venereal Disease: He tried this acid

(g) The Acid of Nitre is obtained in various degrees of oxygenation. When the proportion of oxygen to that

acid also in some other complaints ; the result of which it is not my present business to notice. (*h*)

In September 1793, it was administered, by Mr. Scott's desire, to a person who had a head-ach suspected to arise from the Lues Venerea : He had taken several courses of mercury, which removed the symptoms ; but they constantly returned after a certain period. On using the acid, about a fortnight, the patient was perfectly freed from his head-ach, and remained very well for a few months, as was usual to him after mercury.

Mr.

that of azot is less than three of the former to one of the latter, it is termed *nitrous acid* ; and in this state fumes of a red colour are very freely emitted : But when there are four parts of oxygen, by weight, combined with one part of azot, the acid is transparent and colourless, emits no vapour, its constituent parts are more firmly united than in the other species, and it is denominated *nitric acid*. So that nitrous acid, is the acid of nitre containing a smaller proportion of oxygen ; whereas, the nitric acid is super-oxygenated, or surcharged with that principle.

(*h*) The following observations of Mr. W. Scott are extracted from a small pamphlet, which was sent to Sir Joseph Banks, entitled " Some Letters upon the application of the nitric acid to Medicine: From the " *Bombay Courier*, 1797."

Mr. Scott's first letter is dated April the 30th 1796; at which time, he alledges, that the nitric acid had been tried so fully as to satisfy him of its efficacy. His words are as follow: " I have now
" had a pretty extensive experience of the good
" effects of the nitric acid in Syphilis; and I have
" reason to believe, that it is not in general less
" effectual than mercury in removing that disease,
" IN ALL ITS FORMS AND IN EVERY STAGE OF
" ITS CONTINUANCE. I think that in some cases
" it has even *superior powers*; for I have succeeded
" completely with the acid, when mercury administered both in this country, and in Europe, for
" years together, had failed of success"

" A mass of mercury in the circulation produces many disagreeable effects, that make it
" often necessary to give over its use before it has
" answered its intention; but the nitric acid may
" be taken a long time without any material injury
" to the health, nor are its effects on the mouth, in
" producing inflammation and a flow of saliva so
" disagreeable as from mercury."

" As the acid I distil is not strong, and is of
" unequal

“ unequal strength at different times, I am regulated
“ chiefly by the taste in giving it. I make two
“ pints of water as acid as it can well be drank.
“ This quantity is finished every twenty-four hours;
“ taking about a madeira glass full only at a
“ time.”

“ I have sometimes removed syphilitic symptoms
“ with the acid in *five days*; more commonly, I
“ think they give way in a fortnight; but some-
“ times, though seldom, they continue for twenty
“ days without any apparent relief. I have
“ cured Syphilis with the acid under a variety
“ of forms, where no other remedy had ever
“ been employed; and for two years, I have
“ seen no relapse in those cases. I have ad-
“ ministered it against the primary symptoms of the
“ disease; and I have given it for exostoses, for
“ carious bones, for nocturnal pains, for eruptions
“ and ulcers of the skin, *and for all the train of*
“ *misery that is attendant on Lues.*”

This respectable writer concludes by hinting,
“ that several of his friends had begun to use the
“ nitric acid in Syphilis, and that an account of
“ their

“ their experience should make the subject of a
“ future paper.” I hope, says he, “ this slight
“ account will induce medical practioners to try
“ the effect of the nitric acid in Syphilis; a dis-
“ ease, which, in this climate, (viz. the East Indies)
“ is so frequently the disgrace of their art.” (i)

The second letter of Mr. Scott is dated June the 11th 1796. He therein endeavours to obviate an objection which might be made against the nitric acid, on account of its decomposing the teeth: His method is, to mix the conjee of rice with it, or to sweeten it with sugar or liquorice root.

Although these additions may deprive the remedy

D

of

(i) When it is considered that Mr. Scott's report first excited the notice and subsequent experiments of gentlemen in Europe, and that whatever good or harm has been done by the trial of the oxygenated remedies ought to be chiefly attributed to him, I shall be pardoned for having been rather copious in my extracts from his letters. It is my wish that the present essay should exhibit an impartial statement of the facts which have hitherto (May 1798) been made public, both for and against the new plan of treatment: I cannot, therefore, allow myself to suppress any thing which may apparently tend to establish their efficacy,

of some of its oxygen, he “ has not found that
“ they diminish its effect.”

Mr. Scott also notices that when the acid has
been “ united with the earth of alum, it had the
“ advantage of not acting in the same way on the
“ teeth: From this nitric clay, he obtained the
“ same effects as from the nitric acid.”

Some stress has been laid, by certain medical practitioners, on the purity and consequent strength of the acid used in Syphilitic affections: They suppose that the failures are often to be attributed to the weak powers of the remedy. But Mr. Scott, whose success appears to be inferior to that of no other gentleman, was very indifferent about the purity of the acid he used, and was chiefly guided *by its taste* in the proportion he exhibited. “ The acid of nitre that I first employed for internal purposes, was the palest coloured acid that
“ I could procure from Apothecaries Hall. . . .
“ . . . This contains a great deal of marine acid.”
When Mr. Scott had used all he had from Apothecaries Hall, he procured more by means of an apparatus which he contrived for that purpose, and
gives

gives a description of it in this second letter. Of the acid so prepared, he says, " I gave one or two
" ounces by measure every day, sufficiently diluted
" with water. As this was *precisely* the same with
" the acid of nitre from Apothecaries Hall, the
" effects of which I was well acquainted with from
" experience, I was less anxious to separate the
" marine acid. This is the acid that I
" have used in almost all my trials."

His third letter, dated July 22, 1797, among other particulars, mentions a *new* discovery in regard to the acid, which was deemed " of sufficient consequence to be laid before the public; as
" it seems to remove the chief objections that have
" been brought against it by practitioners: These
" objections are its unpleasant taste and bulky
" form.—I have now made it probable that, like
" mercury, the nitric acid is absorbed by the
" skin, and afterwards produces in the system
" the same effects that arose from its internal use: In this way I have tried it only
" in two instances, and with a degree of success that I could hardly have expected.—
" The skin can

“ hardly bear the application of the acid in a
“ stronger state than it can be drank.”

“ The first case was that of a gentleman who
“ for many months had laboured under a variety of
“ the most dismal symptoms of Syphilis, for which
“ mercury gave him but an imperfect and tempo-
“ rary relief. He could not retain the nitric acid
“ on his stomach in a sufficient quantity to effect a
“ cure. In this situation it struck me to advise him
“ to bathe his legs for an hour or two daily, by sur-
“ rounding them with cloths which he kept wet
“ with water acidulated with the nitric acid : He
“ soon experienced a remarkable relief; his skin
“ became clear, which on some parts had long had
“ the characteristic eruptions of this disease; his
“ strength returned, and his nocturnal pains went
“ away. I believe he is now perfectly cured; as
“ he has been in good health for three months.”

“ In another case the pains of the tibiæ from
“ Syphilis were alleviated by a nitric bath; but
“ this person was obliged to leave Bombay after he
“ had used it only for a few days; nor have I heard
“ any thing from him since that time.”

The

The novelty and supposed advantage of this mode of treating venereal patients, will naturally excite the reader's curiosity, if not his hopes : The next letter of Mr. Scott, (which bears date the 5th of August, 1797) gives a farther account of the success he met with, in using the bath.

“ Since the publication of my letter of the 22d
“ of last month, I have seen a case of Luës Ve-
“ nerea that affords me THE MOST SATISFACTORY
“ evidence of its great and truly surprizing efficacy
“ for that disease.” (k)

“ A young man to whom I had given, for symp-
“ toms of Syphilis, three different courses of mer-
“ cury in the space of eight months, with all the
“ care that I could employ, found himself relapse in

“ a

(k) The candid and judicious reader is particularly requested to observe, how scanty a measure of evidence is accounted by Mr. Scott to be *the most satisfactory* ; as if no farther proofs were wanting to render it more complete. One or two succesful cases is, doubtless, too slender a foundation to build an important practical axiom upon ; especially, when its object is to “ banish “ a remedy,” which, during the experience of three centuries, has proved incalculably useful.

“ a short time after each of them : From the last
“ course, his mouth, which was very sore, had
“ hardly recovered before his nocturnal pains were
“ renewed, his head-achs returned, and swellings in
“ several parts made their appearance, his joints
“ became stiff, so that he could hardly crawl from
“ one chair to another, his arms were afflicted in a
“ similar way to his legs, and one of them remained
“ perfectly immoveable. But a few days ago, he
“ was indeed a very wretched creature.”

“ On the 26th of last month, I made him im-
“ merse his legs and part of his thighs for an hour
“ in the morning and an hour in the evening, in a
“ wooden vessel, which contained water so much
“ acidulated with the nitric acid that the skin could
“ scarcely bear it without uneasiness. In two days
“ afterwards he could make use of his rigid arm; in
“ the space of four days the pains had left both his
“ arms, his head, and one of his legs; for three
“ days more the pain in the other leg continued to
“ decrease, and on the fourth it nearly went
“ away: He is already without pain or com-
“ plaint, and I believe could walk a mile without
“ uneasiness.”

“ As

“ As the same acidulous water will answer for a
“ long time, I now find that a smaller quantity of
“ the acid will cure the disease when applied to the
“ skin, than when taken into the stomach.
“ From the few *decisive* cases that I have already
“ seen, I do suppose that bathing in the nitric acid,
“ properly diluted with water, is still more effectual
“ than its internal use ; and that *either way of ad-*
“ *ministering it is to be preferred to mercury, as more*
“ *powerful and entirely harmless.*”

“ IN A FEW YEARS, I THINK THAT MERCURY,
“ AS A REMEDY FOR LUES VENEREA, WILL BE
“ BANISHED BY THIS ACID ; and in some of my
“ dreams for the improvement of the condition
“ of man, I even imagine that the poison of Syphilis
“ may, in a great measure, be extinguished over the
“ face of the earth, not by the efforts of the ma-
“ gistrate, but by an agent LIKE THIS, safe, simple,
“ and efficacious.”

The reader will permit me to arrest his attention for a moment, before I close this evidence, and these imaginations, of Mr. W. Scott.—The particulars related above, are the result of his practice during

during a period of more than three years. In his 1st letter Mr. Scott suggests that “ the reputation “ of specifics, with the exception of a few instances, “ has arisen only from the weakness of the human “ mind ;” he therefore very properly enquires “ Am “ I too deceiving myself, and attempting to lead “ others into error ?”—This question, connected with his subsequent reports, would incline me to the idea, that he has conducted his experiments with the utmost caution, and related them with the greatest possible fidelity. His success, in most respects, seems to have been complete ; and his hopes as to the utility of his discoveries, are extremely sanguine: Under these impressions then, I wish the following authorities, in favour of the new plan of treatment, to be perused ; because, however strongly Mr. Scott has represented his views, practitioners will be found approving and adopting the same plan and the same views in different parts of Europe.

SECTION the Second. (*l*) *Reports by Dr. Currie, Dr. Trotter, Dr. Rollo, Mr. Cruickshank, Dr. Irwin, Dr. Jameson, and Dr. Wittman.*

I. DR. CURRIE, of Liverpool, in a letter to Dr. Rollo, dated February the 20th, 1797, speaking of the acid applied by Mr. Scott to the cure of Lues Venerea, says, “ I have proved this practice in various instances, and can assure you of its extraordinary success. I gave one dram of the acid daily in a pint and a half or two pints of water.”

In another letter, of the 18th of March, 1797, Dr. Currie remarks, that “ there is no question about the antivenereal effects of the nitrous acid. That which I have used has been the nitrous, not the nitric; for I had not the latter by me, and I found the former succeed.”

II. DR. TROTTER, physician to his Majesty's
E fleet,

(*l*) All the materials contained in this section, were collected from the first edition of Dr. Rollo's publication on the Diabetes Mellitus.

fleet, in a letter from Portsmouth, to Dr. Rollo, dated the 3d of April 1797, observes that “ three
“ cases of inveterate Syphilis have been cured here
“ by nitric acid, as described by Mr. Scott in
“ Dr. Beddoes’ last work.”

III. DR. ROLLO, Surgeon-general of the Royal Artillery at Woolwich, in consequence of the communications which he had received “ in favour of
“ the nitrous acid as an *efficacious and certain remedy for the Venereal Disease*,” caused “ a full
“ and complete trial of it” to be made at the Woolwich hospital: The result of which, he thinks, is that the new plan of treatment will probably “ *turn
“ out MORE GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL and less injurious than mercury in the cure of the Lues Venerea.*”

He says, “ of these new remedies the oxygenated muriate of potash will no doubt be preferred. It has been found of superior efficacy in the Lues in its primary, and from some trials we have no doubt of its being equally so in its secondary state. We have seen that it not only speedily removes the disease, but that the general health, instead of being impaired by it, seems to
be

“ be invigorated. The venereal sores have healed
“ under the action of these remedies, on the system,
“ gradually and firmly, the changes being daily con-
“ spicuous.”

The foregoing observations are taken from the *preface* to his work, dated at Woolwich Royal Artillery Hospital, July 14th 1797; at which time the author affirms that “ no relapse of the disease
“ had been discovered, though several of the pa-
“ tients have been cured upwards of two, and some
“ almost three months.”

IV. Toward the conclusion of Dr. Rollo's publication, are contained “ the results of the trials
“ of various acids and some other substances, in the
“ treatment of the Lues Venerea;” by WILLIAM CRUICKSHANK, one of the Surgeons at the Woolwich Hospital, and Lecturer on Chemistry to the Royal Military Academy (*m*). Mr. Cruickshank and his colleagues, “ with a view to satisfy them-

E 2

“ selves

(*m*) This gentleman has been mistaken, by Dr. Swediaur and some others, for Mr. Cruickshank in London, the Teacher of Anatomy.

“ selves of the antisyphilitic property of the nitrous
“ acid, and at the same time to discover how far
“ this might be owing to its oxygene,” instituted experiments with different substances containing much of that principle, and which part with it readily. He promises to extend his researches at a future opportunity. The cases selected for the above purpose “ were primary affections, strongly and
“ distinctly marked, where no mercurial remedies
“ had been employed.” He says, “ it was judged
“ proper, in their first trials, to confine themselves
“ to cases of primary affections ; *these being always*
“ *less equivocal and doubtful:*” But he likewise suggests, that it is intended “ to employ the same substances in more advanced states of the disease,
“ *particularly where mercury has either failed or had*
“ *little effect.*”

He recites four cases of recent symptoms, treated successfully with the “ concentrated nitrous acid diluted with water:” These symptoms were chancres, gonorrhœa and phymosis ; which got well speedily, by the administration of from half a dram to three drams of the acid, daily.

Four cases are also given of the successful exhibition of "oxygenated muriatic acid;" two of which were enlarged inguinal glands. From fifteen to two hundred and forty drops a day, were administered to each of these patients.

He relates three instances of a similar kind, cured by "lemon juice or the citric acid," in the quantity of three or four ounces daily: Likewise six other cases, expeditiously cured by "the oxygenated muriate of potash;" given to each patient in the quantity of from twelve to forty grains, and in one instance to fifty-six grains, every day.

The diet allowed in these cases was milk, animal food, vegetables, and table beer. The common applications used to the parts affected, were simple ointments, emollient cataplasms, cold solutions of acetite of lead, and electricity: A few ounces of blood were also taken from some of the patients; and when the symptoms indicated it, peruvian bark, opium, and laxative medicines were exhibited.

Mr. Cruickshank observes on the foregoing cases,

cases, “ that the nitrous, citric, oxygenated muriatic acids, and more particularly the oxygenated muriate of potash, are capable of removing the primary symptoms of the Lues Venerea, *without producing any thing like mercurial salivation* : The only doubt therefore which can reasonably remain, must relate to *secondary* ones ; but if in a few instances even these should make their appearance at some future period, it can form no solid objection to this mode of treatment, as similar consequences frequently follow the use of mercury.”

The sensible effects produced by the acids were, “ an encrease of appetite, an augmentation in the quantity of urine, more or less thirst, white tongue, and an increased action of the whole system, most generally accompanied with sily blood.”

“ The oxygenated muriatic acid, appeared to be the most active, and the citric acid the least so. The oxygenated muriate of potash produced thirst, the white tongue, and the increased action of the system in a more remarkable degree than “ the

“ the acids; but there was less alteration in the
“ quantity of urine and the appetite.”—Mr. Cruick-
shank, from several considerations, infers “ that
“ the general or constitutional effects of these re-
“ medies must be ascribed to the disengagement of
“ their oxygene.” He conceives that these general
affections of the system suspend the local conse-
quences of the venereal poison; and, like mercury,
“ cure this disease by exciting a new action, in con-
“ sequence of which the syphilitic one is suspended:
“ This suspension being continued for a sufficient
“ length of time, the whole of the virus, from the
“ change which the fluids naturally undergo, is at
“ last expelled from the body.”—He says, these
medicines “ are not accompanied with any disagree-
“ able consequences during their operation, and
“ THEY SEEM IN GENERAL TO PRODUCE THEIR
“ EFFECTS MORE QUICKLY AND CERTAINLY” than
mercury. But, what is of great importance, “ they
“ do not appear to excite the action of other dis-
“ eases, especially of scrophula.—Of the dif-
“ ferent substances we have yet employed” (says
he) “ we prefer the nitrous acid and the oxygenated
“ muriate of potash; the first, because it may be
“ readily procured, and seems in most cases suffi-
“ ciently

“ciently active, and the last, on account of its
“*being by far the most efficacious and certain*; pro-
“ducing in most instances an almost immediate
“effect upon the disease, without injuring the con-
“stitution. The nitrous acid we have used, has
“never been perfectly pure, nor highly concen-
“trated; in short, it was nothing more than the
“*common fuming acid of the shops*. The nitric
“acid has not been tried, nor do we conceive that
“it would possess any superior advantages. This
“medicine generally produces a sensible effect in
“six or eight days, and frequently accomplishes a
“cure in fifteen or sixteen.”—In one very recent
case, the potash succeeded where the nitrous acid
had little or no effect, although given for some time
to the quantity of three drachms daily.

The cases and observations of Mr. Cruickshank
having been particularly insisted on, both in Great
Britain and upon the Continent, I shall hereafter
endeavour to appreciate their comparative merit. I
next pass on to “Some additional facts, in “testi-
“mony of the efficacy of the nitrous acid in the
“*Lues Venerea*, communicated by several Surgeons
“of the Artillery to Dr. Rollo.”

V. DR.

V. DR. IRWIN stands first. He gives us two cases ; one of which was a phymosis and exudation from the glans penis, the other was a large indurated tumor in the groin : Both of them were cured by the nitrous acid, exhibited as above mentioned.

VI. DR. JAMESON relates five cures, of slight venereal affections, by the same remedy : He also speaks of two other patients who were then under his care ; but they could not be treated in this manner, on account of the acid having (even in the quantity of half a Gram daily) produced a sensation “ like scalding water in their stomach immediately after taking it.” —He entertains no doubt that on many occasions these medicines may *supersede mercury*.

VII. DR. WITTMAN cured eight patients, with primary venereal symptoms, by the same means ; and attended two “ *with secondary symptoms*.” —To one of them he gave the nitrous acid. “ This patient “ (he tells us) had venereal eruptions on the skin, “ painful enlargements of the lower jaw and nose, an “ ulceration of the schneiderian membrane, severe “ head-achs, a dreadful extensive ulceration in the “ throat, with sloughing of the tonsils, uvula &c. He

“ took three drams of the acid for three weeks, during which time the eruptions disappeared, the pain and enlargement of the jaw and nose were nearly gone ; but unfortunately, from the great sloughing in the throat, we were prevented from getting down any liquid whatever, and in attempting to swallow the acid, though much diluted, it was forced back through the nostrils, and produced much distress to the patient : Thus situated, we were obliged to abandon any further trial, and to have immediate recourse to mercurial frictions, which completed the cure.”—The second patient had nodous-like tumors upon the forehead, preceded by severe headaches, and a painful enlargement on the head of the tibia. One of the tumors have been relieved, by taking the *oxygenated muriate of potash*. He has arrived at the dose of seven grains, three times a day ; but is still under cure.—Dr. W. wrote on the 12th of June 1797 : He then affirms, “ Since the 13th of “ March 1797, I have not admitted into the “ hospital a patient, with symptoms of the venereal disease, (except the last mentioned) to whom “ I have prescribed any other medicine but the “ nitrous acid ; nor administered it in vain.”—His remarks on the general effects of the acid agree

agree with those of Mr. Cruickshank; and he
“ did not see any thing like ptyalism produced, as
“ mentioned by Mr. Scott.”

SECTION the Third. *The testimonies of Monsieur
Alyon and Dr. Swediaur, at Paris. (n)*

I. THE reports communicated from the East
Indies (in Mr. Scott's first letter) appear to have
attracted the attention of medical practitioners in
Paris, about the same time that experiments were
instituted with the nitric acid in England. Dr.

F 2

Swediaur

(n) These observations are copied from a pamphlet
which was sent by Dr. Swediaur (through a mistake)
to Mr. Cruickshank of London, entitled, *Extrait du
second volume du traité complet sur les maladies
syphilitiques, relatif à l'action du mercure et de plusieurs
nouveaux remèdes sur l'économie animale.*

I have endeavoured in vain to procure this *complete
treatise* from Paris; and am indebted to Dr. Rollo's
politeness for the perusal of the above mentioned extract
from it, which is only one chapter (the 10th) of the
second volume.

Swediaur recites part of a memoir by CITIZEN ALYON, on the antivenereal and antipsoric properties of oxygen, which was read at the Society of Medicine, "7 Messidor An 5." *i. e.* June 25th, 1797.

This gentleman adopts the theory of Dr. Girtanner and Mr. Scott respecting the operation of oxygen in curing the Venereal Disease; and "denies that mercury, as a metal, is an antivenereal remedy, or that it has any effect upon the constitution when swallowed to the quantity of many pounds:" But this metal, being very oxydable and dis-oxydable, is, therefore, a fit substance for the cure of Lues Venerea.

We are informed that Citizen Alyon "has obtained many combinations of oxygen, which he employs as antisyphilitics with the greatest success, *avec le plus grand succes.*" Some of these preparations are mentioned; for instance, "an ointment of oxygen, superior to the grey mercurial ointment, and with which he has produced the same effects:" He says "he has employed the superoxygenated muriate of potash EXTERNALLY, to cicatrize chancres and syphilitic
" ulcers;

“ ulcers; and that the effects of it have been much
“ more speedy and certain than those of mercurial
“ substances formerly employed, *BEAUCOUP plus*
“ *prompts and plus assurés que ceux des substances*
“ *mercurielles employées jusqu'à ce jour.*”

Mr. Alyon is said to have “ repeated many ex-
“ periments in the military hospital of Saint-De-
“ nis, confirming the facts which he alledges. By
“ encreasing the dose of his *pomade oxigénée*, he
“ produced salivation, glandular swellings, and a
“ diarrhæa, like what are occasioned by urging
“ mercurial frictions too far.” Two cases are like-
wise given to prove the opinion already insisted on,
“ *que l'oxigène agit beaucoup plus promptement and*
“ *beaucoup plus efficacement que les préparations de*
“ *mercure.*” (p. 18.)—I do not believe, however,
that either of his cases were venereal.

“ A patient, thirty-eight years of age, had herpetic
“ or tettery ulcers on both his hands, his legs, and
“ one of his cheeks. He used the bath three days.
“ Citizen Alyon made him rub the ulcerated parts
“ with half a dram of the oxygenated pomatum,
“ two or three times; which cicatrized them in the
“ space

“ space of eleven days, without producing any of
“ those effects from metastasis which commonly
“ follow the use of the anti-herpetic topics
“ hitherto employed.”——The second case referred to, in support of Mr. Alyon’s assertion, is that of “ a soldier who had an ulcer an inch in extent upon one of the posterior columns of the palate; against which he had used many remedies at Beauvais, and had taken to no good purpose Van Swieten’s Liquor (o) during forty days. He touched it three times a day with a solution of the superoxygenated muriate of potash, and in seven days the ulcer was completely healed.”

II. DR. SWEDIAUR, whose name has been long known in the medical world, seems to have been acquainted

(o) If we consult Mr. Wiseman’s Surgery Vol. II. B. viii. C. 2. the *corrosive sublimate* (Hydrarg: Muriat:) will appear to have been an old remedy in Syphilis; although Baron Van Swieten revived it and brought it into vogue. Dr. Clerc, author of the Hist: Nat: de l’Homme malade, says, that the solution of this remedy, commonly attributed to Van Swieten, has been used in Siberia, time out of mind: And, if my memory does not deceive me, it was also employed by one of the earliest writers on this disease.

acquainted with the experiments made at Woolwich hospital : But, I do not think him sufficiently correct in his account of the successful use of nitrous acid, in cases of a *confirmed Lues Venerea*. Other inaccuracies might be pointed out in his work : I shall pass them by ; as not being of much importance, in connexion with the subject now under discussion. He inadvertently says (p. 32.) that Dr. Rollo has added to the supplement of his work on Diabetes, the experience of several Surgeons of the artillery, which proves the nitrous acid to be *EQUALLY efficacious in different cases of a secondary infection*, “*egale-
ment efficace dans different cas d'une infection se-
condaire.*” This representation is calculated to mislead those who have not read Dr. Rollo's second volume, in which the cases alluded to, and the inferences drawn from them, are contained : For, no such *proofs* are therein offered to the world ; nor had the Surgeons of the artillery given this medicine a fair trial, in that stage of the disease. One of Dr. Wittman's patients (See the particulars, p. 41. VII.) *is the only instance* of any advantage having been derived from the acid in secondary symptoms : But, the cure, *even in this case*, was effected by mercury. None of the other practitioners at Woolwich had
administered

administered the acid in a *confirmed Syphilis*; and Mr. Cruickshank expressly mentions *why* they had not.—Dr. Swediaur adopts the same theory of the operation of mercury as Mr. Alyon; and advances several reasons in support of the opinion that this mineral acts upon the venereal poison “only by virtue of the “oxygen contained in its various compositions,” and that the former serves merely as a vehicle of the latter. Consonant with this idea, he flatters himself and his readers (p. 43.) with the hope of removing all venereal affections by means of oxygen without mercury; so that, in perusing his late Treatise, we shall only have occasion “TO SUBSTITUTE “THE WORD ‘OXYGEN FOR THAT OF MERCURY”! —The Dr. is of opinion that the event of secondary affections ensuing in patients who have been cured of the primary symptoms of Lues Venerea, “forms no “solid objection against the new plan of treatment “because we sometimes see the same consequences “after a mercurial course, especially when it has “been administered without due care and attention.” (p. 33.)—He “used the oxygenated lard in two “cases of primary syphilitic ulcers” on the glans and præputium: He also applied the superoxygenated muriate of potash “in a third case.” These were

were recent affections; and healed soon, without any other remedy, either internal or external.

“ In all the other cases of Blennorrhagias or of
“ primitive syphilitic ulcers, wherein I employed
“ the oxygen externally, it appeared in general to
“ render the matter thicker, less acrid, not so
“ irritating, and more white; and it evidently ac-
“ celerated the cure of these complaints.”

“ I desired all my patients to be on their
“ guard, and immediately to apprise me of any
“ affections, whether local or general, which might
“ have appeared on their bodies.——I have
“ given the nitric acid internally to *many patients*
“ *with a general syphilitic infection*, and even in
“ one case where mercury had been previously
“ employed without success: In all of them, the
“ remedy increased the appetite: Two or three
“ experienced a little affection of the salivary
“ glands: In one, small apthous ulcers appeared
“ in the mouth: Two patients complained of the
“ colic during some days. But, all these symptoms
“ disappeared of themselves.—The nitric acid
“ was used in the above cases *pur à trente degrés*;
“ and in no instance did I give more than one

“ hundred and twenty, or an hundred and thirty,
“ grains a day.” p. 36.—Thus far Dr. Swediaur.

I regret that I have not been able to procure any more information, concerning the results of similar enquiries and experiments in other parts of the continent: But, the subsequent information will show how diligent several practitioners have lately been, in trying these medicines at the different hospitals, &c. in Great Britain.

SECTION the Fourth. *The attestations of Dr. Beddoes, Mr. Baynton, Mr. Sandford, and Dr. Rutherford.*

I. NOT many days after the receipt of Mr. Scott's paper on nitric acid, DR. BEDDOES was consulted on a singularly obstinate case of supposed Lues Venerea, (*p*) “ the first in which the
“ nitric

(*p*) See Considerations on Factitious Airs, part v. appendix v; and page 81, &c. of “ Reports concerning
“ the effects of nitrous acid in the Venereal Disease,
“ published by Thomas Beddoes, M. D. 1797.”

“ nitric acid was tried in Europe.” During a period of about ten months, before the Dr. saw him, this patient had a succession of symptoms which induced an experienced practitioner to direct the mercurial pill and ointment: Several other remedies were likewise used, viz.—cicuta, peruvian bark, sarsaparilla, and opium, before the exhibition of the acid. After six weeks trial, the nitric acid appeared to be ineffectual, and some of the symptoms were aggravated. It was therefore omitted entirely, and six quarts of Velno’s Vegetable Syrup were given; but, without the smallest sensible effect. “ He then relinquished medicines altogether. “ About this time he daily discharged a purulent “ slough from his nose; which, as his feelings shewed, came from the posterior nares.—No ulceration was visible in the throat.”

“ In the spring, (1797) exostoses arose on the “ cranium. I concluded from former observations “ (says Dr. Beddoes) that the medicines he had “ before used in such immense quantity would cure “ him. I am this day (Sept. 4th) informed that “ he re-commenced the free use of mercurial in- “ unction and nitrous acid. During this course,

“ his strength improved, and in three weeks the
“ nodes began to diminish, and in a month more
“ totally disappeared. During this process *he*
“ *rubbed in a pound of mercurial ointment and took*
“ *six ounces of concentrated acid.* Not the least
“ tendency to salivation appeared, nor any un-
“ comfortable symptoms. His health daily im-
“ proved: But he still every day blew the scab or
“ slough out of his nostrils. The mercurial pill
“ was now given. The amendment went on ra-
“ pidly, till, within this fortnight, upon taking a
“ slight cold, *he was attacked with venereal ulcera-*
“ *tion of the throat.* He has again returned to the
“ nitrous acid and mercurial ointment, which he is
“ to continue as long as he has any vestige of the
“ disease behind the nose.”

This case, and the next I shall recite, being rather in favour of the acid than otherwise, and being in some respects singular, were judged worthy a more minute detail than common: But, the public are not yet in possession of the sequel of these histories; which, however, is necessary, in order to afford a just conclusion respecting the *permanent* effects of the remedy in question.

The account of Mr. H. as it is recorded by Dr. Beddoes, Mr. Baynton, and the patient himself, occupies more than nine pages (*q*): I must reduce it to a narrower compass.——Mr. H. was attacked, in the beginning of the year 1795, with ulcers in his throat and tonsils, violent nocturnal pains in his shins, and soon afterwards with nodous excrescences from his knees almost down to his insteps. His arms also became painful, and swellings of a considerable size made their appearance. Next, his knees tumefied and became stiff with extreme pain. Then all his limbs contracted, and every joint of his fingers enlarged. His nose and cranium shared equally in the general torment, and his whole body was at length reduced to a motionless skeleton.

This gentleman*contracted the venereal disease some years before Mr. Baynton first visited him, and supposed himself perfectly cured: He had since that time, married, and become the father of healthy fine children. During nearly a space of two

(*q*) Consid. on Airs, and Reports on Nitrous Acid.

two years, Mr. B. tried, without success, “ the
“ whole of the known remedies that the art af-
“ farded, and mercury in almost every mode of
“ exhibition :” The nitric acid was then given, by
Mr. Baynton’s and Dr. Beddoes’ desire, according
to Mr. Scott’s method. On the 25th of Nov:
1796, Mr. B. writes that “ he was indeed a rueful
“ spectacle, with little more than diseased bones
“ remaining, when he began the use of the nitric
“ acid; and that he *now appears in good health.*
“ I contemplate with astonishment the change that
“ has been produced; more especially, as he was
“ labouring under profuse sweats, diarrhæa, or
“ ptyalism, from the mercurials that were exhibited,
“ though they were so guarded; and has *now ob-*
“ *tained a cure* by the use of a most powerful acid,
“ without experiencing even momentary incon-
“ venience, and in less time than would have been
“ requisite to remove even the mildest symptoms
“ of the disease, by any other known method.”

November the 29th, Dr. Beddoes informs us,
that “ his daily dose of strong colourless nitric
“ acid was two drams, diluted by a quart of wa-
“ ter. On the seventh day he perceived a
flow

“ flow of saliva; on the eighth the salivation
“ amounted to a quart; and it has continued in a
“ greater or less degree ever since. There was no
“ soreness of the mouth, nor any of the feelings
“ which had formerly been produced by mercury.
“ In two or three days after this effect on the
“ salivary glands, he lost his pains: On being
“ lifted out of bed, he was astonished to find he
“ could stand without support; *whereas*, says he,
“ putting his hands on his knees, *these limbs could*
“ *not before have sustained a single ounce.*
“ Three weeks after the exhibition of the acid, the
“ tibiæ were rough, but without excrescence; all
“ the nodes disappeared. Mr. H.’s nose, which
“ had been considerably enlarged, was now of the
“ natural size. His hands, which had been a mis-
“ shapen mass, had no preternatural appearances.
“ Before, he could not bend any of his fingers;
“ now he could bend them all, but the forefinger
“ of the right hand. A great difficulty of deglu-
“ tition had disappeared at the commencement of
“ the salivation. His general bodily condition had
“ been much amended; and his appetite had become
“ so keen, that he could hardly find time enough
“ in the day to eat and to take his diluted acid.”

Although

Although the above statement respecting Mr. H. affords ground to hope that considerable utility may be derived from the acid, under certain circumstances; the following letter, which he sent to Dr. Beddoes after a lapse of nine months, excites a suspicion that the benefit he received did not amount to a destruction of the venereal virus.

" SIR,

" I have the pleasure to inform you, that
 " I have been totally free from pain since I was so
 " happily freed by the use of the nitrous acid; but
 " the stiffness still remains in the middle joint of
 " the fore-finger of my right hand; and I have also
 " a breaking-out all over my body, which is attended
 " with a violent itching that breaks my rest. I am
 " now about to enter upon another course of the
 " acid, and have great hopes it will remove this disagreeable complaint also.

" I am, &c.

" Bristol, Aug. 30, 1797.

R. H."

From the issue of this case (added to Mr. Scott's evidence) Mr. Baynton and Dr. Beddoes seem disposed to conclude that the *nitric acid* is a *specific in venereal affections*. " Why," says Mr. B.
 " should

“ should it be so difficult to believe the existence
“ of other *specifics*, for the poison in Europe;
“ when it is recollected that the South Sea islanders
“ and some tribes of the native Americans have
“ found, in the vegetable productions of their
“ countries, remedies for the *worst* (*r*) states of the
“ disease?”—Dr. Beddoes remarks, “ that the
“ discovery of every new specific (or substance
“ capable of correcting given morbid actions of
“ the system) affords a new reason for believing in
“ the existence of others: For some scrophulous
“ ulcers, we seem to have found a new specific in
“ sorrel; for *venereal and hepatic affections in nitric*
“ *acid, such as we possessed before in mercury.*”
He adds, that he has before him, Nov. the 29th
1796, a letter from an accurate medical observer, in
which he says that “ He has used nitric acid with
“ great advantage in some cases which he believed
“ to be hepatic, and in ONE *venereal case with ap-*
“ *parent advantage.*”

H

At

(*r*) Have these pretensions been as clearly verified as they have been positively maintained? In my opinion the evidence is very deficient; and, I am not yet convinced that “ *the worst states of the disease*” have ever been radically cured by vegetable productions.

At p. 83, of Dr. Beddoes' Reports, after having summed up the evidence for the new plan of treatment, he concludes that "*there is, therefore, already in favour of the nitrous acid, A FAR GREATER FULLNESS AND VARIETY OF TESTIMONY, (s) than has ever been produced in favour of any of those other substances that have at various times been proposed as substitutes for mercury: From the whole it clearly results, that where the constitution is broken, the habit feeble or scrophulous, the cure should always be attempted by the nitrous acid in preference to any other medicine.*"

II. MR. BAYNTON, whose evidence in one case

(s) In this supposition, however, he is undoubtedly mistaken: For, by his own reckoning, at the period of his writing, there were not much "*above an hundred cases attested as cured*" by the acid; whereas it has been affirmed by a certain author, that at one time *three thousand patients were cured of syphilis by the decoction of guaicum alone!* This author is NICHOLAS POLL: His words are, "*Uno quasi & eodem tempore usu decocti ex Guaiaco tria hominum millia, de quibus desperatum erat, ad bonam valetudinem reducta fuisse, qui post convalescentiam sibi ipsis renasci videbantur.*" Other testimonies may be easily produced, in favour of various antivenereal substances well known to Dr. Beddoes.

case has already been adduced, gives us an account of two others “ who were cured of the last stage “ of the venereal disease, after a failure of care- “ fully conducted mercurial courses.” As the number of instances of supposed cures on record, in the *last stage* of syphilis, are very few, I shall take the liberty of copying these two at full length.

Letter to Dr. BEDDOES.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ In compliance with the request
“ of your yesterday’s favour, I herewith send you
“ an account of two *venereal* patients, who were
“ cured of the last stage of *that* disease, after a
“ failure of carefully conducted mercurial courses.
“ On the 6th of January, 1795, a man named
“ ———, about 20 years of age, applied to
“ me for the cure of venereal ulcerations, and
“ eruptions upon his arms, breast, and forehead.
“ He said, that about ten months before, he had
“ contracted a venereal complaint, of which the
“ first symptoms were chancres, and buboes that
“ suppurated; that he had applied to an itinerant
“ practitioner for relief, and by his assistance, was

“ freed from those complaints ; but that inconveniences of a more distressing kind were soon observed to succeed their removal ; that his throat became obstinately sore, and that ulcerations and blotches soon followed. I ordered him to take half a grain of the muriated quicksilver, with an equal quantity of opium, morning and evening ; and to drink with it, half a pint of a decoction prepared with the usual quantities of guaiacum, sassafras, mezerion, and liquorice. These medicines were persevered in till the middle of May, and continued some weeks after the removal of the symptoms for which they were exhibited.”

“ I did not see him from that time till the 25th of August ; He then applied for the relief of a train of symptoms that nearly resembled rheumatism. He had much pain in the larger joints, with an accelerated pulse, and a regular increase of pain and fever every evening. He had been employed in the open air some time before this application, and had, as he said, been sometimes improperly exposed. I therefore did not hesitate to consider the complaint as rheumatick, and to
“ treat

“ treat it accordingly. The saline and other medi-
“ cines, with antimonials, liniments, &c. were tried
“ till the end of Sept. without any advantage. It
“ was not till the beginning of January, 1797, that
“ any thing could be observed, which rendered it
“ probable that his complaints were occasioned by
“ venereal poison. About that time nodes began
“ to appear upon his shins, and gradually increased
“ till the 20th; when he was directed to take two
“ drachms of the strong nitrous acid, or aqua
“ fortis, diluted with two pints of water, every
“ day, in any way he could with the least incon-
“ venience. In less than three weeks his pains
“ began to abate, and his health, which was much
“ impaired, to return. The medicine was con-
“ tinued till the 25th of April, when the pain and
“ stiffness of the large joints, which before that
“ time was so considerable as to render it probable
“ that the disease would end in incurable lameness,
“ *together with the excrescences upon the tibiæ*, and
“ all his other inconvenient symptoms, except
“ weakness, were perfectly removed.

“ A constant discharge of saliva, equal in quan-
“ tity to what would have been secreted under a
“ mild

“ mild mercurial course, attended the administra-
“ tion of the acid in this case ; but without any
“ soreness of the mouth, or disagreeable smell.”

“ WM. GREENSLADE, aged 21 ; a private
“ in the artillery, contracted a venereal complaint
“ about the beginning of March, 1796. He had
“ a chancre, and a bubo which suppurated ; and
“ took mercurials by the direction of his acquaint-
“ tance and fellow-soldiers, till the first of April ;
“ when he became a patient in the Royal Hospital
“ at Woolwich, and continued there a month,
“ during which time his mouth was kept in a con-
“ stant state of soreness, by the use of mercury.
“ On the 1st of May he was discharged, apparently
“ cured ; but in three months after, his throat
“ became sore, and continued so till May, 1797 ;
“ he then began to feel nocturnal pains in the
“ breast, and frontal bones, and to perceive nodes
“ upon the shins, together with a swelling upon
“ the ulna, near the wrist of the right hand. On
“ the 8th of June, I was requested by serjeant
“ Evans of the same corps, to render him assist-
“ ance. His pain had then so much reduced him,
“ and the joints of his knees were so much enlar-
“ ged,

“ged, that he could not turn in his’ bed without
“difficulty. A drachm of mercurial ointment
“was directed to be rubbed into his thighs every
“night, and a decoction of guaiacum, sassafras,
“&c. to be taken as usually directed. On the
“11th, his pains were so great as to require the
“assistance of opiates, which, with the frictions
“and decoction, were continued till the 21st of
“July, a period of six weeks, without in any degree
“abating his pain or swellings. His health was
“then much impaired, his appetite gone, his
“pulse quick and small, and his general appear-
“ance hectic. On that day, two drachms of the
“nitrous acid diluted with two pints of water, was
“sent him, and he was directed to take as much of
“it as he could in the day. The first day, he
“drank the whole quantity; but was so much gri-
“ped by it, that he could not afterwards be pre-
“vailed upon to take more than a pint, or a pint
“and a half, in the 24 hours. In less than ten
“days, his pains began to abate, and his health to
“mend. His recovery has been so rapidly ad-
“vancing since, that I yesterday found, when I
“called to see him, that he had walked out to take
“the air, and that except the swelling upon his
“right

“ right arm, and some stiffness of the knee joints,
 “ he was free from every symptom of disease. In
 “ this case, no ptyalism, or soreness of the gums,
 “ were occasioned by the medicine.”

.

I am, dear Sir,

your sincere servant,

Bristol, Aug. 22.

THO. BAYNTON.

III. MR. SANDFORD of Worcester, another of Dr. Beddoes' correspondents has given the outlines of five cases in which he tried the acid with advantage. They were selected, he says, “ from
 “ amongst the numerous trials that he had made,
 “ as most conclusive of its effects:” But, the first and two last only were believed to be VENEREAL; and are therefore the only cases to illustrate our present subject.

The symptoms of the first patient were “ two
 “ very small orifices on the nates, near the peri-
 “ næum; which had been called *Fistulas in Ano*.”
 ———He took from one to two drams of the
 nitric

nitric acid daily, mixed in a quart of water; and
“ the fistulous orifices were dressed with mercurial
“ ointment.” After a while, “ the mercurial
“ dressings was laid aside, and he was directed to
“ use a fomentation of vinegar and water to the
“ parts twice a day, and to keep soft cloth wet with
“ this liquid constantly applied to them. In a
“ short time the discharge ceased entirely, the
“ orifices healed, the callosity disappeared, and the
“ man found himself perfectly well.”—I do not
suppose any person, beside Mr. Sandford and
the patient, will call this case “ A SYPHILITIC
“ AFFECTION.”

“ J. B. aged 23, had undergone a regular course
“ of mercury by friction and the mouth, till a
“ strong salivation was excited; with the hopes of
“ curing some obstinate venereal ulcers on his
“ shins, and one or two ill conditioned and spread-
“ ing chancres on the penis. He afterwards took
“ bark, opium, steel, and sarsaparilla, for some
“ months, without any manifest advantage. Feb. 20,
“ he began to take the nitric acid; and on the 8th
“ of April following, was dismissed perfectly
“ cured.”—I see no reason, (after a regular course

of mercury and a strong salivation,) to suspect that these sores legs, &c. were prevented from healing by the presence of the venereal poison ; and therefore, do not regard even this case as very well adapted to prove the *antivenereal* properties of the acid.

The last of Mr. Sandford's cures was " an
" ulcer near the right condyle of the lower jaw ;
" a small portion of the interior part of the jaw
" was laid bare, was becoming carious, and the
" discharge highly offensive." A carbon poultice
was applied to the ulcer till it put on a clean appearance : " During *this time* (Mr. S. observes)
" the man confessed to a professional gentleman of
" my acquaintance, that he at *that time* was affected
" with venereal complaints. The *next time* I
" examined him, he informed me that he had *lately*
" had a slight hernia humeralis and other symptoms"
(but what symptoms were they ?) " of venereal
" infection. The charcoal application was now
" laid aside, and the wound dressed with mercurial
" ointment ; at the same time he was ordered to
" take the nitric acid internally, two drams in
" 24 hours. This medicine he began to take
" July 18th ; and this day August 19th, was
" dismissed

“ dismissed cured; the ulcer in the jaw being
“ completely healed, and no symptom remaining of
“ VENEREAL INFECTION.”

Although Dr. Beddoes has judged these histories to be worthy a place in his valuable collection of facts, I hope he does not include them among the
“ HUNDRED BAD CASES ATTESTED AS CURED
“ BEYOND ALL REASONABLE DOUBT.” (t) They certainly are not decisive.

One of the patients to whom Mr. Sandford gave the nitric acid, found it disagree with him, even in a small dose: He had heartburn, cholic, flatulency, &c. with soreness of his gums and a slight salivation. The acid which this gentleman “ made use
‘ of in all the cases here mentioned, was the
“ nitrous acid deprived of its phlogiston (as it is
“ called) by simple boiling in an open retort, till
“ the red fumes ceased.”

IV. DR. RUTHERFORD, one of the medical
I 2 professors

(t) See Dr. Beddoes' circular letter to medical gentlemen, dated Sept. 5, 1797.

professors in the university of Edinburgh, communicated the result of his experience on this subject, August 24, 1797, in a letter to Dr. Beddoes.

Dr. R. “ made many trials of the nitric acid
“ in Lues, chiefly on patients in the royal infirmary,
“ and with various success.” In some instances
the medicine failed him altogether; but even in
these, it produced no bad effects on the constitu-
tion. “ In other instances,” he observes “ the
“ beneficial effects of it were most conspicuous,
“ absolutely surprising, and far greater than I re-
“ member to have ever seen produced, in the
“ same space of time, by any preparation of mer-
“ cury. Such salutary effects were remarked
“ principally in the more *advanced stages of the*
“ *disease*, when none of its most distressing symp-
“ toms were present, particularly severe pains in
“ the bones, swellings in the periosteum fici, &c.
“ I have seen all these pass away most rapidly
“ under the use of the acid.”
. “ I have lately seen an instance or two
“ where the disease was so inveterate, and the con-
“ stitution so broken, that neither the acid nor mer-
“ cury,

“ cury were adequate to check the progress of the
“ disease ; as trial had been made of both in suc-
“ cession, but without any conspicuous advantage :
“ In these, therefore, the acid had been used at
“ the same time with mercury, and the two together
“ have produced a most favourable change in
“ almost every symptom.”

“ What the particular circumstances are, which
“ occasion such difference of result in different ex-
“ amples, I confess I have not been able to ascer-
“ tain. I am happy, however, to think that these
“ will probably soon be ascertained, by some of
“ the many ingenious observers, who, I learn, are
“ now occupied with the subject. Most fortunate
“ will it be for mankind, if a certain substitute be
“ found for mercury, in the cure of lues, as well
“ as other diseases. And such, I would hope, may
“ soon be found in some of the acids, or their
“ compounds. For though I cannot say that my
“ own trials of the nitrous acid in lues have been
“ uniformly so successful as I might have expected
“ from some printed accounts of its efficacy,
“ which I have had access to peruse, yet they suf-
“ ficiently prove, that in certain states of the
“ disease

“ disease, and in certain constitutions, it is a remedy
“ of very great value.”

The unfavourable side of Dr. Rutherford's report, with that of several other gentlemen, will be stated in the next chapter of this Essay.

I now proceed to the main body of evidence in Dr. Beddoes' collection of facts, by the surgeons of the Plymouth Royal Hospital.

SECTION the Fifth. *Successful cases related by
Dr. Geach and Mr. Hammick junior, at Plymouth
Hospital.*

THE public are, in my opinion, greatly indebted to those practitioners who avail themselves of the opportunities afforded by hospitals, and other similar institutions, of ascertaining the merits of new remedies from time to time : For, without such laudable endeavours, by those who have extensive
means

means in their hand, the progressive improvement of the healing art, in all its branches, must be very slow and encumbered. Honourable mention ought therefore to be made of the pains which several hospital-surgeons and others have taken, to appreciate the antivenereal properties of nitrous acid; although, I am sorry there is so much cause given to acknowledge, that their experiments have not generally been made on the most *unexceptionable* subjects.

By a letter, bearing date the 22d of July 1797, it appears that the nitrous acid had been given "to more than fifty" venereal patients in the royal hospital at Plymouth; and Mr. Hammick tells us "*his success had FULLY answered the character which has been given of this newly discovered remedy.*" (u)

Judging

(u) In reading this attestation, we are led immediately to the recollection of Mr. W. Scott's first report; which alledges, that syphilis had been cured by the acid "*under all its forms and in every stage of its continuance:*" But, it is somewhat remarkable, that no instance (or only one) of a *confirmed Lues Venerea* is recited, either by Mr. Hammick or Dr. Geach; although they selected the *WORST* venereal cases that were brought into the hospital!

Judging from his own experience, Mr. H. thinks
“ little doubt can be entertained but that the nitric
“ acid will, in a great measure, *supersede the use*
“ *of mercury in the venereal disease.*” He says
“ it effects a cure, for the most part, in a short
“ time, without impairing the appetite, without re-
“ quiring any particular regimen or strict confine-
“ ment, leaving none of those ill consequences or
“ depredations that often follow the liberal use of
“ mercury ; and, as yet, he has seen no instances of
“ the disorder re-appearing after the use of this
“ medicine.”

Notwithstanding the number of patients in which
the acid had then been tried “ amounted to more
than *fifty*,” we are favoured with the recital of
only *twelve* cases: Of these I shall give an analysis
in few words, with some observations of Dr.
Geach and Mr. Hammick upon them.

The symptoms under which these patients la-
boured (except the 8th) were what have been usually
called *primary* affections; viz. chancres, buboes,
gonorrhæa, dysuria, excoriations, gangrenous sores,
phymosis, para-phymosis, and chordee. Seven of
them

them had not used mercury before they began the acid; and the other five had either got worse during the use of mercury, or received no benefit. All of them were apparently cured by the nitrous acid, occasionally aided by tonic medicines and simple external applications. The 8th case is the only one which can be denominated a confirmed syphilis; and even *that* is rather doubtful, as no symptom was present beside a painful node: But the whole narration ought to be submitted to the reader, that he may judge for himself.

“ WILLIAM SMITH, a marine, twenty-two
“ years of age, was received into this hospital on
“ the 26th day of May, for a venereal complaint;
“ an extremely large and painful node was dis-
“ covered on the right tibia, which he said he had
“ perceived coming on nearly four months: He
“ had suffered excruciating pains in that part and
“ in his limbs at night, which became much easier
“ as the morning advanced; he contracted this
“ disease four years since, but thought him-
“ self perfectly cured: But had pains in his limbs
“ ever since the commencement of the disease, at
“ times; but not so violent as to prevent him

“ from doing his duty, till a month since. He
“ was much emaciated, and low spirited from the
“ constant pain he suffered : He was ordered the
“ following drink :

“ R

“ Acidi nitrosi drachmam ifs

“ Syrupi simplicis uncias vi

“ Aquæ fontanæ libras ij

“ M. bibat quotidie.

“ At the expiration of nine days, he said he had
“ rested better than for five months past : On the
“ 16th day of taking the nitric medicine, his pains
“ had entirely left him, and his node seemed di-
“ minished ; his appetite returning, and in much
“ better spirits. He continued his drink to the
“ 14th day of July, when his pains and swelling on
“ the tibia were gone, his appetite and spirits good,
“ and his health restored. He was discharged on
“ that day, to go on duty, returning many thanks
“ for his cure.”

If this be a legitimate instance of confirmed syphilis, was the cure permanent? Relapses have often happened after an *apparent* destruction of the

Lues

Lues Venerea ; and, I shall recite some such cases, in the sequel of this work.

The prescription here copied for Wm. Smith, may serve as a specimen of Mr. H.'s mode of preparing and exhibiting the nitrous medicine. In all the cases recorded, except the first, each patient took six or eight ounces of simple syrup with every quart of the diluted nitrous acid.

The following letters from Dr. Geach and Mr. Hammick, will explain a variety of particulars which ought to be known, concerning the practice at Plymouth Hospital.

To Dr. BEDDOES.

“ Royal Hospital, July 26, 1797.

“ SIR,

“ I do myself the honour, agreeably
“ to your request, of writing to you, and assuring
“ you that the patients, whose cases Mr. Hammick
“ junior lately transmitted, were regularly attended
“ by myself; and every circumstance was remarked
“ as minutely as possible, and is strictly true. So

“ great indeed has been the success of this nitric
“ medicine in the venereal disorder, *that many pa-*
“ *tients, who had been broken down by an antecedent*
“ *use of mercury, under which the disorder gained*
“ *ground, recovered their health and strength without*
“ *the assistance of diet drinks, change of air, the*
“ *bark, or any other tonic medicine whatever.* We
“ have had but few instances where the stomach and
“ bowels have been affected by it ; but the pre-
“ caution of taking it through a narrow glass tube
“ has prevented the acid from affecting the teeth,
“ and the medicine has been rendered more pala-
“ table by mixing simple syrup with it ; and this
“ addition, as far as we have hitherto noticed, has
“ been effectual enough to prevent both mawkish-
“ ness and pain. But, although these circumstances
“ have now and then succeeded the use of the
“ nitrous acid, it does not affect the mouth or pro-
“ duce a ptyalism. It does not impair the appe-
“ tite, it does not require any dietetic regimen, or
“ confinement. *Indurated buboes have yielded to*
“ *it without suppurating ; phagedenic buboes have*
“ *healed after unsuccessful trials with mercury: In*
“ *chancres, however large, or sordid, and in excoria-*
“ *tions of the scrotum, however fetid and extensive,*
“ the

“ the cure, by its use, goes on more rapidly than by a
“ mercurial process. Such chancres and excoria-
“ tions, have been dressed only with simple oint-
“ ment, that the patients might not be incommoded
“ by the friction of the linen, and that the effect of
“ the medicine might be better ascertained, when
“ there was no local application. We have not
“ found, after the chancres have been cured by this
“ medicine, that the throat has been affected; a
“ circumstance not unusual, especially when such
“ ulcers have been dressed with any mercurial pre-
“ paration. The cases sent by Mr. Hammick were
“ the worst that were received into the hospital.

“ That the nitrous acid has succeeded in fifty
“ cases, or more, is certain;—but it has failed in
“ four or five instances, and failed too, where the
“ cases have been apparently slight. But whether
“ the failure can be imputed to the inadequacy of
“ the medicine, under particular or unobserved
“ circumstances, or to causes not yet explored, I
“ know not: Future experience must throw more
“ light on the efficacy of this medicine, which, at
“ present, is only in its dawn. It has removed, in
“ some patients, nocturnal pains. In the gonorrhœa
“ itself

“ itself it has not been tried, as *very bad cases only*
“ *have particularly engaged our attention.* In attend-
“ ing to those, we have endeavoured to bring every
“ thing to the test of truth, which ought to be the
“ guide to every man in a profession, which has for
“ its object the restoration of health, and in a dis-
“ order, which sometimes baffles the skill of the
“ most experienced. Suffer me to own, that when
“ we first made trial of the nitric acid, no great opi-
“ nion was entertained of its success. Accustomed
“ to give mercury in this disease, a practice sanc-
“ tioned by great authorities and time, we were in-
“ clined to think that no medicine but mercury
“ would cure it. There was no bias, no predi-
“ lection, therefore, for this new medicine, no at-
“ tachment to system. But as the nitrous acid was
“ so respectably recommended by yourself, this
“ was a sufficient motive to make trial of it; and
“ nothing but the success that has attended its use,
“ could authorize us to write in this manner to
“ you, who are the best entitled to the earliest
“ communication.

“ *The nitrous acid we have used, has been prepared*
“ *according to the London College.*

“ Before

“ Before I close this letter, it will be doing but
“ bare justice to Mr. Hammick, to say, that he
“ has been unwearied in his attention to the cases
“ in question, as indeed he is to every case in
“ which he is professionally engaged, and that his
“ skill and integrity merit all the praise I can
“ bestow.

“ I have the honour to be, Sir, &c. &c.

“ FRA. GEACH.”

“ *Royal Hospital, Plymouth, Aug. 14, 1797.*

“ SIR,

“ PERMIT me to thank you for your
“ late favour, and to mention, that *since I did my-*
“ *self the honour of communicating to you the*
“ *twelve cases, we have still continued to give the nitric*
“ *acid in the same disorder, and with equal success.*

“ This medicine has been supplied by Mr. Fox,
“ a very eminent chemist in Plymouth, and it has
“ also been sent from Apothecaries’ Hall; but
“ though thus differently obtained, *the success has*
“ *been the same;* and therefore time only can shew
“ the reason, why, with other practitioners, your
“ correspondents,

“ correspondents, this medicine has not been suc-
“ cessful.

“ It is a great satisfaction to me, that the trials
“ have been made in a public hospital, under the
“ immediate eye of Dr. Geach. The effect has
“ been well known to many within the walls, and
“ also without the walls, of this hospital. And in
“ consequence of the observations made by us,
“ SOME PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS HAVE GIVEN
“ THIS MEDICINE, AND CAN ADDUCE IN-
“ STANCES OF ITS GOOD EFFECT.”

“ As my residence is in the hospital, I had an
“ opportunity of receiving and selecting the pa-
“ tients; a short history of their cases was inserted
“ in the prescription books; the progress of the
“ several cases was minutely watched, and the
“ effect of the medicine as much as possible
“ ascertained.

“ If the patients under the nitric course had not
“ been cured, they would not have been either dis-
“ charged from the hospital, or received into their
“ ships: Removed from our notice, *we cannot as*
“ yet

" yet know whether their cures have been permanent,
" or not.

" With great respect, Sir,

" I remain, &c. &c.

" STEPHEN HAMMICK, junr."

In a letter dated August 22nd Mr. Hammick expresses his own and Dr. Geach's satisfaction on account of the coincidence of the observations of Mr. Cruickshank and others, with those made in the Royal Plymouth hospital. He hopes the facts ascertained by distant and unconnected practitioners, will be effectual in recommending the nitrous acid to notice; and adds, " Permit me
" to mention, that it has been the practice for more
" than twenty years, with Dr. Geach, to give six or
" eight ounces of recent lemon juice, with an equal
" proportion of simple syrup, daily, to patients
" worn down with the venereal disease, and parti-
" cularly in phagedenic buboes, which had spread
" under a course of mercury; and for the last four
" years and upwards, since I had the happiness of
" acting under him in this hospital, I have seen the
" good effects of the lemon juice in such cases.
" Dr. Geach candidly owns, that the utility of lemon
" juice

“ juice was first suggested to him by the late Sir
“ William Fordyce, (*v*) who had seen, in long and
“ extensive practice, its good effects. Although
“ the lemon juice thus succeeded with Sir William
“ Fordyce, and with us in this hospital ; yet, the
“ cures have not been so rapid, nor its success
“ equal to that of the nitrous acid.”

The successful event of Robert Harris's case, and the peculiar circumstances attending it, induce me to add the following correspondence from Mr. H. and Dr. G. dated the 28th of August 1797.

“ ROBERT HARRIS, a seamen, aged twenty-
“ four, fair complexioned, was received into this
“ hospital, June 1st, 1797, for a venereal complaint.
“ He says, three weeks after the connection, he
“ found a swelling in his left groin; at the expira-
“ tion of ten days, he applied to the surgeon's mate,
“ (the surgeon having been sent on shore during
“ the late mutiny;) some mercurial pills were order-
“ ed, which produced a ptyalism ; and a poultice
“ was

(*v*) I have shown, in the foregoing chapter, that this is not so new a practice as has been commonly believed.

“ was applied to the part. About a fortnight after,
“ the bubo was opened by incision ; but another
“ soon formed lower down, which was opened in
“ like manner ; but both soon spread into one.
“ A new surgeon was appointed to the ship, and the
“ man was sent to the hospital. His bubo was now
“ phagædenic, and, by an accurate measurement,
“ was eight inches in circumference. The edges
“ were much inflamed, and the bubo itself was
“ black, foul, spreading, and discharging ichor
“ highly offensive to ourselves, and intolerable to
“ others. He was now weak and emaciated, with-
“ out appetite, with night sweats, diarrhœa, and a
“ harrassing cough. June 1st 1797, the day he
“ became our patient, he took, *acidi nitrosi dr : ij,*
“ *syrupi sim : unc : viii, decoct : lignor : lib : ij, m : et*
“ *bibat quotidie.* The bubo was fomented with a
“ strong decoction of *rad : althææ : , capit : papaver : ,*
“ *et flor : chamæm.* A poultice of yeast and oat-
“ meal was applied cold ; he took an opiate at
“ night, and a spermaceti mixture for his cough.
—June 4th. The bubo in a spreading state ;
“ the diarrhœa more profuse ; the nitric drink con-
“ tinued ; a rhubarb bolus, with *confect : opiat :*
“ administered every sixth hour.—9th. Large

“ sloughs thrown off in the poultice ; the ulcer,
“ nevertheless, continued to spread ; flatus in the
“ stomach and intestines ; diarrhœa less ; the
“ bolus with rhubarb and confection taken only
“ twice a day ; two grains of opium given
“ every six hours ; nitric drink continued ; a gal-
“ banum mixture for the flatus.—14th. The
“ sloughs cast off ; the ulcer was so wide and
“ deep, that he was enjoined strict confinement
“ to his bed, lest an artery, by exertion, should
“ burst ; the yeast poultice was changed for
“ another made with fresh leaves of cicuta ;
“ his sweats diminished, and diarrhœa increased.
“ —20th. The disease gained ground ; the ulcer
“ extended in circumference and depth. The man
“ was so exhausted that he could not raise himself
“ in bed ; was propped up with pillows, and
“ deemed irrecoverable. The nitric medicine ;
“ fomentation just warm ; cicuta poultice and opiate
“ continued. Anxious to relieve, the occasion
“ pressing, the nitric acid a new medicine, not
“ given by us in a case so deplorable, we adminis-
“ tered the bark ; but as every dose was immedi-
“ ately vomited up, the bark was wholly laid
“ aside.—23d. Nitric drink continued : The myrrh
“ mixture

“ mixture administered for the cough ; this he took
“ but one day, the stomach rejecting it.—25th.
“ His situation considered desperate by ourselves,
“ and others of the faculty, not belonging to the
“ hospital, whom curiosity drew hither from reports
“ of the case ; nitric drink, cicuta poultice, and
“ opiate continued ; almond oil mixed with honey,
“ given for the cough.—26th. A gleam of hope ;
“ one of the inguinal glands began to clean, and
“ the bubo ceased to spread. His recovery com-
“ menced. The edges of the bubo were accurately
“ measured ; its circumference was *fourteen inches*
“ *and three quarters* ; under the loose and flabby
“ edges, a probe, all around, was passed more than
“ an inch ; the lower part of the *musculus iliacus*
“ *internus*, the upper part of the *pectinalis* and *ad-*
“ *ductor longus femoris*, were laid bare ; four of the
“ inguinal glands, all bare as well the muscles,
“ were so loose that we expected their entire sepa-
“ ration. Though these appearances were favour-
“ able, yet he was very feeble, had still diarrhœa
“ and sweats ; a low pulse, no appetite, and his
“ urine passed from him involuntarily : Nitric
“ acid, poultice, and opiate continued.—30th. The
“ ulcer clean, his spirits better, cough less ; nitric
“ drink

“ drink continued.—July 7th. The bubo still
“ cleaning; granulations rising; appetite returning;
“ sweats and diarrhœa lessening; nitric drink
“ continued.—July 14th. Bubo quite clean:
“ Granulations firmer: The fomentation and poul-
“ tice discontinued; a dressing of simple white
“ ointment or lint applied: Appearance and health
“ improved; cough still less, diarrhœa ceased,
“ sweats abated.—24th. The inguinal glands
“ not eminent; the granulations rising to a level;
“ his appetite good; sat up two hours.—30th.
“ Recovers rapidly: The ulcer fills up; moved
“ about the ward on crutches; the nitrous acid
“ reduced to one drachm and a half daily. He
“ continued the drink, in this quantity of the acid,
“ to this day August 28th; the bubo, though not
“ quite healed, is within the compass of a sixpence;
“ the cicatrix, as far as it had extended, is firm, and
“ with a healthy appearance, with no tendency at
“ all to spread again. His appetite, strength, and
“ flesh are restored; his leg and thigh, however,
“ are contracted, and he has sometimes, by night,
“ an involuntary discharge of urine. IT IS A PLEA-
“ SURE TO REMARK, THAT HE HAS NOT ANY
“ APPEARANCE OF THE DISEASE ANY WHERE,

“ IN ANY FORM WHATEVER. However, it is
“ our intention to keep him under the nitric course
“ till the cicatrix is completely formed. It may be
“ worth while here to notice, that he has taken *one*
“ *hundred and sixty-four drachms of the nitrous acid ;*
“ *and this quantity has not produced the least appear-*
“ *ance tending to salivation.*”

To Dr. BEDDOES.

“ SIR,

“ THE account of the case of Robert
“ Harris, by Mr. Hammick junior, accompanies
“ this letter. Mr. Hammick has already stated,
“ that the patient has *taken one hundred and sixty-*
“ *four drachms of the nitrous acid ; that this quantity*
“ *has not, in any degree, excited salivation, nor im-*
“ *paired the habit.* Although he had a diarrhoea,
“ he continued it, and the sweats were restrained
“ under its use. The opiates, though so largely
“ administered, were given more with a view of
“ alleviating pain, than to arrest the sphacelus in
“ its progress. Opiates uncombined, have often
“ been given in such cases, but have failed with
“ us. The bark and myrrh were administered but
“ one

“ one day ; and every dose was vomited up. It
“ cannot therefore be said, that tonic medicines
“ assisted. During the whole course, the man
“ drank more than a pint of port wine daily. But
“ port wine, it may be presumed, would not cure
“ the bubo. It is évident then, that no kind of
“ diet interferes with the nitrous acid, or counter-
“ acts its effect. The patients on whom this medi-
“ cine has been tried, have used the different
“ kinds of diet, according to the established rules
“ of the hospital. This cure, thus far advanced,
“ has not been made in *a corner*, but in a great
“ hospital. A short history of every case in which
“ the nitric acid has been used, was taken ; the
“ books and the medicines prescribed, are now to
“ be seen, and are open to any enquirer. The
“ man himself is still with us, and the vestige of
“ his malady is sufficiently conspicuous. Let it
“ not be said that *the nitric acid may succeed with*
“ *sailors, and sailors only.* It has succeeded with
“ marines, new recruits who had never embarked,
“ and had no scurvy. Whatever may be the suc-
“ cess of this medicine, when its use becomes
“ general, I can aver, from my own attention,
“ that Mr. Hammick’s account is true ; that the
“ case

“ case has been very accurately minuted, and faithfully stated. The case, though singular in its nature, progress, and cure, is not a single instance of the efficacy of the nitrous acid. WE STILL GO ON SUCCESSFULLY ; and, if in future we should be disappointed, if it should not answer our expectations in every species of the venereal disease, we shall, as far as comes under our notice, remark, and communicate the failure. It would be wrong to impute infallibility to it. The medicine has failed in several instances, and so has mercury. *It will require time, acumen, extensive practice, unprejudiced judgment, to bring this medicine fairly to the test ; to remark in what stages of the disorder it will do good ; where its success may be doubtful ; where it is certain. It seems to answer better in buboes, chancres, excoriations, than in venereal eruptions, disseminated over the whole body.*

“ I am, &c.

“ FRA. GEACH.”

In the above letters, as well as in some other communications, I observe the word *nitric* is inadvertently put for *nitrous*.

SECTION the Sixth. *Reports in favour of the new Remedies, by Mr. George Kellie, Dr. Thornton, and several practitioners in America.*

I. THE second volume of Dr. Duncan's *Annals of Medicine*, for the year 1797, contains the history of five cases; from three of which, Mr. GEORGE KELLIE (Surgeon of his Majesty's ship the *Leopard*) infers, either "that the syphilitic virus
" was destroyed by the nitrous acid, or that it was
" capable of SPECIFICALLY CHANGING THE
" SYPHILITIC ACTION."

THE FIRST CASE is that of a marine, who, a month after receiving the venereal infection, was labouring under "an ulcer upon the præputium,
" of the extent of a sixpence, superficial, ragged,
" painful, and dry; together with a little discharge
" from the urethra and a scalding."—On the 28th of April 1797, the sore had encreased in size, and assumed a more unhealthy aspect; so that Mr. K. had "no doubt that it was a true syphilitic ulcer."
From this time till the 12th of May, he took the acid, in the proportion of a dram and a half diluted
with

with a pint of water, every day ; and the sore was dressed with Ceratum Epuloticum. The patient's gums were not made tender by the acid, nor was his breath rendered at all fetid ; but his fauces became inflamed and tumid, attended with difficult deglutition and " a considerable ptyalism."—He had used no medicine whatever, before he put himself under the care of Mr. Kellie ; and was discharged by him, cured, on the 24th of May. There were no appearances of secondary symptoms, nor any return of the former ones, upon the 23d of August ; when Mr. K. communicated the following information, as the result of his farther experience.

SECOND CASE.—" Mr. C . . . had a small venereal chancre, which he discovered on the 14th of May, and knew it to be the immediate consequence of impure coition. The chancre was dressed with common cerate, and the nitrous acid was given to the extent of *half a dram* daily, for ten days. Within that time the ulcer healed ; since which (to the 23d of August) no other venereal symptom has appeared. Mr. C. thought the medicine increased his saliva ; but, it had no other sensible effect."

THE THIRD CASE, was of a man who on the 1st of June was received into the sick list for a virulent gonorrhæa. Laxatives, astringent injection, and powdered nitre, were employed daily ; but, an enlargement of the inguinal glands appeared on the 7th.—It did not, however, encrease considerably ; and he was discharged to duty on the 15th of the same month.

In three days, he again was affected with the bubo and pain in the inguinal glands ; when he applied a solution of acetated cerusse, and began to take a dram of the acid in a pint of gruel every twenty-four hours : The dose was varied afterwards, as the patient could bear ; but it did not prevent suppuration taking place in the groin.—The acid was omitted on the 12th of August following, when the bubo had got well.

II. In Dr. Beddoes' Reports, page 86, an allusion is made to "*a case of syphilis where oxygen gas was thought beneficial*;" and he refers to the 3d part of his Considerations on factitious Airs for the particulars of that case, which are related in a letter from DR. THORNTON of London, dated
May

May 5, 1795. As I have lately heard it affirmed that oxygen gas has cured the Lues Venerea, without the aid of any other remedy, it may not be amiss to subjoin an abstract of the case referred to by Dr. Beddoes.

A merchant, who had become the victim of indiscretion, employed mercurial pills and ointment, until he had subdued the primary symptoms. This proteform disease, however, discovered its virulence in the secondary stage; and when Dr. Thornton saw the patient, he says, “ the surface of his body was deformed by dreadful blotches; he had an ulcer on the lungs, attended with a hard cough, and bloody and purulent expectorations; with other horrid marks of this dreadful scourge of illicit desires.”—Dr. T. being convinced of the fatality of consumption from syphilitic ulcers,” urged the use of vital air. Mr. Hill accordingly gave him *each day* the superoxygenated air, in the proportion of *two quarts* to eighteen quarts of atmospheric air; and by way of medicine, he had muriated mercury in the strongest decoction of bark, with the powder, and two grains of opium at night: He was also
“ occasionally

“ occasionally purged. By this course, without
“ any violent effect from the mercury, he was in
“ three weeks clear of all defædations of the skin,
“ and in a month the ulcer on the lungs was healed,
“ and the other marks of syphilitic affection dis-
“ appeared; and in six weeks he went to Margate,
“ deeming himself perfectly cured.”

This letter of Dr. Thornton, being dated prior to the earliest communication of Mr. Scott, seems to prove that Dr. Girtanner's idea (of oxygen curing the syphilis) was put to the test of direct experiment in England, before the trials at Bombay had been publicly announced. How far this idea is founded upon incontrovertible facts, let the aggregate experience of medical practitioners determine.

III. On the 1st of November 1797, Dr. Beddoes gave public notice (in the Monthly Magazine) “ that the first part of a *new* collection of
“ cases was actually about to be delivered to the
“ printer;” and he intimated, that he “ did not
“ purpose to send out less than a *hundred* respecta-
“ bly attested cases at a time.”—The same gentleman

man, in a subsequent letter, (dated Jan. 1st, 1798) tells us “ In the collection of observations on nitrous acid, now in the press, of which the first, and perhaps the *second century*, will appear in March next, I shall have the satisfaction of producing evidence from various and distant quarters. I shall give a second letter from Mr. Scott, of Bombay. THE POSITIVE EVIDENCE IS SUCH AS APPEARS TO BE INCAPABLE OF BEING INVALIDATED BY NEGATIVE; especially as the facts to be brought forward will account, to a certain extent, for the general failures that are said to have been experienced in some places.”— He informs us, however, by another letter, on the 7th of March, that this encouraging publication was unavoidably delayed; and that his correspondents “ *in America have been employing nitrous acid there, with various, but, FOR THE MOST PART WITH GOOD SUCCESS.*”

I am anxiously expecting to see these two hundred cases, collected by Dr. Beddoes; not doubting, that farther light will be thrown on this interesting enquiry.

SECTION the Seventh. *Favourable communications by Dr. Ferriar and Mr. Simmons of Manchester.*

I. THE latest publication I have met with, wherein the new plan of treatment has been recommended, is the third volume of DR. FERRIAR'S "Medical Histories and Reflections," p. 161 and 223. This gentleman appears to have used the acid discreetly, and to have drawn his inferences with judgment: His cases will assist in leading us to something conclusive.

1.) ELIZ. JOHNSON had constant pains in her head and limbs, nodes on the shin bones, a large ulcer on the crown of her head, and some smaller ulcers on the thighs. Her disease was of three years continuance, and had been repeatedly treated by insufficient courses of mercury. Dr. F. put her upon a proper plan of treatment, by mercury, opium, and bark; but, could not relieve her symptoms essentially, although her mouth was kept sore for some time. A fatal termination was expected, until the nitrous acid, diluted with water, was administered: This remedy caused the ulcer on her head

head to heal, relieved the pains, and gave her additional strength. But she was afterwards negligent in taking the acid, on account of its having disagreed with her bowels; so that the cure remains still incomplete.

2.) A. B. had a chancre, with slight ulcerations on the tonsils, copper-coloured eruptions, and nocturnal pains. Dr. F. put him on a mercurial course, which made the symptoms give way and healed the chancre. But the patient, being disgusted with his medicines, discontinued them. After four or five months he returned, with a renewal of his former symptoms, pains over the nose and orbits, together with small ulcerations on each side the lower part of the septum narium. Dr. F. not having then heard of Mr. Scott's remedy, administered mercury a second time; and it again removed the symptoms: But, the patient became unmanageable and withdrew himself once more. After the expiration of a year and a half, he applied again, with incessant racking pains in his head and limbs, a node on the left tibia, a discharge from one nostril, and pain about the situation of the ethmoid bone in the left orbit, as well as a sense of rawness in his nose:

He was now much emaciated, anxious, and deprived of his appetite. Dr. F. directed the diluted nitrous acid every day, and opium at night, according to the state of his bowels. A blister was also applied to the node on his left leg. Under this treatment the pains of the head and legs abated in three weeks; but the pain in the orbit and discharge from the nose increased. By this time the dose of the acid had been augmented to fifty drops, four times a day; and it began to affect his bowels, though joined with considerable doses of opium: The mercurial pill was therefore given, five grains night and morning; and in a few days afterwards he discontinued the acid.—“ His symptoms were removed soon after “ the mercury affected his mouth.”

DAVID JONES' complaints (the third case recited) were not clearly venereal, but rheumatic and paralytic: They were, however, gradually relieved by taking a drachm of the acid four times a day; and he has now regained the use of his limbs completely.—WILLIAM BROWN'S case, (the next in order,) was an instance of the happy effects of the acid in severe sciatic pains; but does not properly come under my notice, on the subject I am treating.

In

In none of the above patients was the mouth affected by the exhibition of the nitrous acid, in the manner described by Mr. Scott.

5.) " ANN MAJOR, in consequence of a syphilitic affection, imperfectly cured, was liable to nocturnal pains and nodes, chiefly about the forehead. She had been ill upwards of five years, when I saw her. Mercury, mezereon, sarsaparilla, and tincture of guaiacum, were successively employed, with various success, till last summer; when I put her on a course of the *nitric acid*. In a few weeks, she felt more relief from this medicine than from any other that had been employed. In August last, she was ordered to take five drops of *muriatic acid*, four times a day: Under this course, she had no return of pain, but thinks her appetite and strength improved."

6.) SAMUEL LLOYD had a relapse of secondary venereal symptoms, after an imperfect course of mercury. Calomel given every night, by order of Dr. F. did not relieve him: He then took five drops of *muriatic acid*, four times a day, which by

being persisted in . from Aug. the 28th to Sept. the 14th, removed his pains entirely. But, on the 29th of September, the pain returned with great severity: The *nitric* acid was then substituted for the *muria-*tic.—October 7th his pains were lessened, and his mouth was exceedingly sore, by taking forty drops four times a day.—November 5th his mouth was again sore and discharged saliva pretty copiously: The pain of his head had been returning some time, and was now violent, particularly in the forehead. A blister produced no relief. On the 16th it was excruciating: The acid was discontinued, and ten grains of oxygenated muriate of potash were given thrice a day.—November 20th a large node appeared on the temple. The potash was encreased to the dose of fifteen grains, four times a day.—28th. His forehead and face were extremely painful: The node encreasing: His mouth very tender; but no encreasing discharge of saliva.—December 7th, head and face very painful: There was a general enlargement of the *os frontis*: No soreness of the gums nor ptyalism. The potash was omitted, and the patient put on a course of calomel.—21st. His head much easier.—February 8th. His head completely relieved; and his mouth sore from
the

the calomel.—March 1st.² Continues easy, except at the angles of his jaws, in consequence of the mercury.

7.) “ MARY KEENE had been a patient of the
“ Manchester Infirmary, at different periods, du-
“ ring the course of five years, for syphilitic com-
“ plaints; which were often suspended, but never
“ entirely removed, by the use of mercury, guaia-
“ cum, mezereon, and sarsaparilla. She applied to
“ me once more (Dr. F. observes) as an out patient,
“ in the summer 1797. She then complained of
“ pains in her bones, and the occasional appearance
“ of nodes, chiefly on the forehead. I ordered her
“ to take five drops of *muriatic acid*, four times a
“ day.—When I last saw her, she had continued
“ this medicine upwards of a month, and thought
“ her pains greatly relieved by it: No nodes had
“ appeared. She used no other medicine at the
“ same time, and she had employed no mercury
“ for a very considerable time previous to her
“ taking this acid.”

8.) “ JOHN LEES had the venereal disease up-
“ wards of four months. He had chancres origi-
“ nally

“ nally, which were healed when I first saw him ;
“ and he now complained of pains in the bones,
“ sore throat, a large nauseous discharge from the
“ nose, and some external ulcers. He had taken
“ mercury, but not for some time before I saw him.
“ I ordered him half a drachm of diluted *nitrous*
“ acid, four times a day. He continued this
“ course for three weeks, without the smallest ad-
“ vantage; I then threw in mercury, still admini-
“ stering the acid, and his symptoms are yielding
“ more quickly than I could have expected.—In
“ the course of two months, after this report, he
“ was able to attend as an out patient at the in-
“ firmary.”

The Dr. adds, “ Besides the cases which I have
“ thus mentioned at length, I have used the nitric
“ acid in a variety of venereal complains *in con-*
“ *junction with mercury.* I have not perceived, that
“ by this combination, a smaller quantity of mer-
“ cury was sufficient to eradicate the disease, nor
“ have I found that the sensible action of mercury
“ on the salivary glands was at all promoted by the
“ use of the acid. My observations would rather
“ lead me to suppose, that the acid lessens the irri-
“ tability

“ tability of the system, and prevents the extent to
“ which the mercurial disease usually proceeds. In
“ speaking of immediate deductions from facts, I
“ set the chemical pathology aside.—It appears from
“ the facts I have mentioned, that the specific
“ power of the nitric acid, in venereal complaints,
“ is limited to certain symptoms, in the advanced
“ stages. It seems to remove the pains of the long
“ bones, and to act on the superficial ulcers of the
“ third stage ; but, *I should hardly be inclined to*
“ *trust the cure of any well ascertained venereal affec-*
“ *tion, to the acid ALONE.* Mr. Simmons’ trials of
“ this remedy, shew that the acid is capable of ex-
“ tinguishing the symptoms in a recent case.—I
“ have never been able to ascertain clearly, that the
“ soreness of the gums and slight salivation, of
“ which the patients certainly complain sometimes,
“ while they are using the acid, depend on a *general*
“ action on the salivary glands. I can
“ positively assert, that I have known the acid
“ taken in large quantities, for a considerable length
“ of time, in conjunction with the free use of mer-
“ cury, without producing any ulceration of the
“ gums or encrease of the saliva ; yet with the effect
“ of destroying every venereal appearance, in well
“ marked

“ marked cases.”—Dr. F. does not undertake to explain these contradictions to the principles on which the nitric acid has been introduced; and thinks it possible, that the difference between his experience and Mr. Scott’s may be owing to the diversity of the climate in which their respective experiments were made. Upon the whole he concludes, that “ the nitric acid has a powerful effect “ in certain stages of the venereal disease, but that “ neither the extent nor the permanency of this effect is yet ascertained: That we have acquired, “ at least, a valuable auxiliary to mercury, an useful remedy against chronic rheumatism, and, “ what was much wanted, a palatable tonic.”—He has employed the oxygenated muriate of potash but seldom, in syphilitic complaints; and says, he has “ seen no remarkable advantages derived “ from it.”

II. The above mentioned gentleman, Mr. SIMMONS, has detailed a case of chancre and bubo cured by the free use of *nitric acid*, diluted with water and sweetened with sugar; likewise a case of *confirmed lues venerea*, the particulars of which I shall refer to the next chapter, with Mr. Simmons’ observations

observations thereon. He has "given the com-
" mon nitrous acid of the shops, in this disease,
" under a variety of circumstances, in primary and
" secondary symptoms : The result corresponds
" with the above recited cases. It
" would appear that the affection of the gums and
" consequent salivation, is owing solely to the di-
" rect action on them, and may be avoided by
" sucking it through a quill, straw, or glass
tube."—He says that " although it has failed in se-
" condary symptoms, when the constitution has
" been much exhausted by previous disease and a
" long course of mercury, it has had speedy and
" permanent effect in restoring the health and
" strength. Under circumstances where a mercu-
" rial course cannot be entered on, it arrests the
" progress of the disease. An example of this
" may be taken from a person labouring under
" lues venerea being seized with *typhus*, the vene-
" real action is suspended during the fever, and is
" again renewed on its termination ; in this case
" the acid must be of doubtful propriety : The
" acid, however, will not only relieve the venereal
" affection, but restore the patient's strength ; and
" coincides, admirably, with any tonic plan that
" may

o

“may be adopted. In ulcers, remaining after
“a mercurial course, and which, though for a
“time relieved, are aggravated by the further
“use of mercury, I have derived much benefit
“from it.”

Additional evidence in favour of the new plan
of treatment, under certain circumstances, will ap-
pear among the histories which I shall adduce in a
subsequent part of this essay.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER III.

*Unfavourable reports concerning the new Remedies,
with occasional animadversions.*

SECTION the First. *The testimonies of Mr. Bowles,
Dr. Girdlestone, and Mr. Benjamin Bell.*

HAVING exhibited the substance of what has been already published by practitioners in support of the new plan of treatment, I proceed now to give an abstract of those reports which appear to militate against its title to superior efficacy: This part of my subject will, however, occupy but a small portion of time; as most of the gentlemen who have written upon the new plan, have given very promising details of their experience.

I. In the collection of cases published by Dr. Beddoes, toward the close of the last year, there are several communications which, if they do not invalidate the conclusions which have been hastily drawn from partial success, at least must oc-

casion a doubt concerning the efficacy of the nitric acid *in every form and stage of Syphilis*. MR. BOWLES, for example, gives an account of three cases wherein this acid had been exhibited last winter, in St. Peter's Hospital at Bristol.

“ ANNA HEAVEN, a patient of my own, had
“ a large and foul ulcer on the calf of the leg,
“ bearing all the marks of the secondary venereal
“ ulcer; (w) under a course of the cort. peruv.
“ and the application of local stimulants, the ulcer
“ in her leg healed : But at this period some glan-
“ dular tumors appeared in the neck, which pro-
“ ceeded to suppuration; the nitric acid was now
“ given her, beginning with sixty drops each day,
“ and increasing the dose gradually to a hundred
“ and

(w) I am by no means satisfied that this was a genuine instance of the Lues Venerea ; and, therefore, do not urge it as an *unsuccessful* trial of the new remedy. “ A secondary venereal ulcer” was not likely to have been cured by the means here mentioned, without being followed by a train of unequivocal symptoms : But, whatever may be thought of the case by Mr. Bowles, the narration is very indistinct and imperfect ; so that, I think it proves nothing to the purpose.

“ and twenty. This plan was continued six weeks,
“ during which no alteration could be perceived,
“ except an increase of appetite, and occasionally,
“ some degree of gnawing pain in the stomach.

“ ANN RICHARDSON, a patient of Mr. Sal-
“ mon's, had nocturnal pains in the bones of her
“ extremities, and nodes on the left ulna and tibia.
“ For some weeks she used mercury without any
“ apparent benefit. The nitric acid was given her
“ in the same quantity as to the last patient, and
“ persevered in for an equal length of time; but
“ without mitigating the disease. She experienced
“ the same increase of appetite, and uneasiness in
“ her stomach, as the former patient.”

“ MARY POWELL, a patient of Mr. Davies',
“ had nocturnal pains in her bones, and an erup-
“ tion which was supposed to be venereal. Mer-
“ cury had alleviated, but not removed these symp-
“ toms: For about six weeks, she continued the
“ nitric acid, in the same doses as the former pa-
“ tients, but it produced no change in the disease;
“ the effects upon her stomach and appetite were
“ the same as in the foregoing cases. The acid
“ given

“ given to these women was at first the common
“ nitrous acid; but in a few days it was changed
“ for the colourless acid distilled over silver by
“ Mr. W. Clayfield.”

II. DR. GIRDLESTONE, of Yarmouth, has given a very decided testimony to the inefficacy of the nitric acid, and the great superiority of mercury, in various cases of the venereal disease: But, it is to be regretted that his report on this subject is so short.—These are his words.

“ *I have tried the nitric acid in a variety of syphi-*
“ *litic cases, without having been able to effect ANY*
“ *cures with it.* Those of my patients who have
“ taken it, to the quantity of a drachm and an half,
“ or two drachms daily, have generally found it to
“ produce, within eight or ten days, a copious flow
“ of saliva, with tenderness and swelling of the
“ gums, but not unfrequently an INCREASE of the
“ venereal symptoms: I have then generally sub-
“ stituted the mercurial frictions, with very rapid
“ good effects. But the salivation excited by the
“ nitric acid, does not seem to prevent the patients
“ from bearing the mercurial frictions as long, with-
“ out

“ out producing ulcerations about the gums, as if
“ no previous tenderness had been excited by the
“ acid. I have also observed, that the nitric acid
“ may be immediately given and persisted in after a
“ mercurial salivation, without producing any
“ farther alteration upon the gums, unless it be that
“ of enabling the patient sooner to resume mer-
“ rial frictions.”

III. Mr. BENJAMIN BELL, of Edinburgh, whose writings on every part of surgery have entitled him to special attention from the public, bears likewise a remarkable testimony against the oxygenated remedies. His opinion is given by Dr. Duncan, in the *Annals of Medicine*, 2nd. Vol. 1797. “ We
“ think it may not be improper to mention, that
“ while there are many advocates for the use of the
“ nitric acid in syphilitic complaints, Mr. Bell in-
“ forms us, that IN EVERY TRIAL WHICH HE HAS
“ MADE WITH THIS ACID IN THE CURE OF SY-
“ PHILIS, IT HAS COMPLETELY AND ENTIRELY
“ FAILED ; *insomuch that he is now clearly of opi-*
“ *nion that no dependence should be placed on it : And*
“ *whether mercury has been given or not, it appears to*
“ *him to be equally inefficacious.*”

“ The

“ The favourable opinion which some have been
“ induced to form of the nitrous acid in the cure
“ of syphilis, Mr. Bell supposes to have arisen from
“ chancres and other symptoms of the disease hav-
“ ing disappeared, while this acid was the only re-
“ medy employed for them. But, from frequent
“ opportunities for observation, he asserts, though
“ contrary to the generally received opinion, (x)
“ that chancres as well as some other symptoms of
“ lues venerea, will occasionally disappear, whether
“ any remedy be employed for them or not. In
“ some instances these will never recur again, as he
“ has repeatedly found to happen, even with nodes:
“ But, most commonly, venereal symptoms after-
“ wards again appear with more violence in some
“ other form.”

“ This being the case, and the most distressful
“ consequences

(x) From the intercourse I have occasionally had with practitioners of large experience in this metropolis, as well as from my own reiterated observation, I was lately emboldened to publish an opinion similar to this of Mr. Bell; and am happy to find it corroborated by so respectable a testimony.—See the Monthly Magazine, January 1798, p. 2.

“ consequences having ensued in all the instances
“ in which he has known this acid to be depended
“ upon for a cure, the disease having rapidly gained
“ ground in all of them, (by which much blame
“ was thrown upon the practitioners, for advising
“ what at best must be considered as a very doubt-
“ ful remedy, when another, which rarely or never
“ fails, was in his power,) Mr. Bell considers it as
“ hazardous and improper in any degree to trust to
“ it. He is afraid that much mischief is likely to
“ ensue from the frequent trials which are now
“ making with this acid, in many instances, perhaps,
“ without any dread of the failures which are likely
“ to occur from it.”

“ Mr. Bell has never found that the nitric acid,
“ whether given internally or applied as a wash, has
“ proved more useful in the cure of ulcers of any
“ description, than the acid of vitriol or the muri-
“ atic acid; while none of them have acted with
“ such certainty in cleansing sores, and thus reduc-
“ ing them to an healing state, as the different va-
“ rieties of the vegetable acid, whether common
“ vinegar, lemon juice, or the acid of sorrel.”

SECTION the Second. *Additional evidence of the defective powers of the new remedies in Syphilis, by various other medical practitioners.*

BESIDE the above proofs of the superior virtues of mercury in syphilis, and the inefficacy of the new mode of treatment; a few hints may be collected from the gentlemen who have written on the opposite side of the question, which do not tend to establish its superlative excellence.

I. MR. W. SCOTT, in his first letter, confesses that in some cases he “ had failed altogether; but, “ in those cases, mercury had long been given to “ little purpose, the bones were highly diseased, and “ the habit probably of a peculiar kind.”—If it be said that this confession does not tend to lessen the merits of the remedy, inasmuch as even mercury itself, the grand specific, had likewise failed; it may be replied, that a medicine which has such superior powers, and is so much more efficacious than mercury, (as many affirm) ought to evince its infallible virtues “ in all the forms of “ syphilis and in every stage of its continuance.” But, I fear something will soon be made public which

which is still more disadvantageous to the novel system of practice; for, Dr. Beddoes "HAS RECEIVED FROM MR. SCOTT INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPRESS WHAT HE SAYS ABOUT THE EFFECT OF BATHING, AS HE IS NOT SATISFIED WITH HIS TRIALS." Medical men will doubtless be impatient to know the cause of this retraction!

Some gentlemen took umbrage at the following expression in my circular letter of the 17th of October last. 'We have been informed that above an hundred bad cases stand attested as cured beyond all reasonable doubt: But, on impartially examining the evidence brought forward respecting them, there is ground to conclude that this declaration has not been verified by *legitimate examples*.'—It may now be asked, whether the truth of my observation does not begin to appear? Mr. S. is not satisfied with his trials, and wishes to suppress what he has said about the effects of nitric bathing; although, a few months ago, he was of opinion that his cases were DECISIVE, and that they afforded the MOST SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE in favour of his acid bath, which was STILL MORE EFFECTUAL THAN ITS INTERNAL USE.

If

If Mr. S. has pronounced too positively and prematurely on one part of his experience, may we not justly apprehend that he has on the other part also? I have been repeatedly told that some of the medical practitioners in Edinburgh have seen *relapsed* cases, which were formerly thought cured in the East Indies!

II. DR. JAMESON relates two cases which could not be treated with the nitrous acid, on account of its having produced a sensation in the stomach "*like scalding water*;" although he appears to have administered it with the greatest precaution, and reduced the proportion of that medicine to only half a dram in twenty-four hours.—In similar cases, what resource have we but mercury?

III. It has been likewise hinted that DR. WITTMAN was unable to continue the nitrous acid in a patient having ulcerated fauces, &c. from the Lues Venerea; and that he was obliged to cure him by the *old* specific.—Does not the incompetency of the new remedy in such horridly destructive cases, detract greatly from its merit? Will mercury ever "*be banished*" and the "*poison of syphilis be extinguished*,"

“tinguished,” by so unsuitable a medicine as this ?
If it be not adapted to the WORST venereal cases,
how comes it to be offered as a substitute for
mercury?

IV. MR. BAYNTON, whose testimony in favour
of the acid has been given, “in two venereal pa-
“tients under the last stage of the disease,” says
“in another case similar to these that had resisted
“mercury in every way, and where this acid ap-
“peared to have a fair trial, I could not discover
“that the venereal symptoms were alleviated,
“though the patient’s general health was improved
“by its use. In a case of ulceration, attended
“with *actions specifically diseased* (y), that affected
“the arm of a patient who had long laboured under
“syphilis, and who had taken very large quantities
“ of

(y) It has become the fashion, among philosophers of
a certain description, to explain obscure phenomena by
terms which are absolutely unintelligible. If the form
of a disease or the operation of a remedy be unknown, it
does not throw any light upon the subject to say “it
“consists in a peculiar action, irritation, or affection,”
of whose quality or quantity we can form no precise
idea, because we have neither measure nor test of its
existence.

“ of mercury without advantage, the acid was also
“ tried by my advice without success.”

The patient known to Mr. Baynton and Dr. Beddoes by the signature R. H. has been reported to have had “ a breaking out all over his body,” for which he underwent another course of the acid during last autumn. This may possibly be reckoned an indecisive instance of the antivenereal powers of the new remedy : But I do not pretend to determine the point, for want of proper evidence. It is hoped these gentlemen will soon publish the sequel of Mr. H.’s history ; as it is certainly very interesting, and proves something favourable respecting the acid, in a case so truly deplorable.

V. DR. RUTHERFORD describes the very rapid

existence.—The progress of science is impeded by these unmeaning interpretations, in as much as they tend to arrest the judgment and prevent farther enquiry. Mr. Kellie tells us (p. 90) that the nitrous acid is capable of “ *specifically changing the syphilitic action ;*” and Mr. Baynton talks of “ *actions specifically diseased ;*” but who can understand this language ?

pid effects produced by the nitrous acid in “ severe
“ pains of the bones, swellings in the periosteum,
“ fici, &c.” but, he adds, that “ the same symp-
“ toms have recurred soon after the medicine had
“ been discontinued : And in one example where
“ this had happened, the same complaints, which
“ had yielded almost at once to the acid, now proved
“ absolutely refractory to it, *and were at last re-*
“ *moved by a course of mercury.*”

VI. The fourth case related by MR. KELLIE, which he calls “ a confirmed lues,” did not amend after the regular use of nitrous acid from June the 21st to July the 10th 1797 : The patient was therefore discharged to sick quarters, “ affected with an
“ ulcer of the left tonsil, pains of the tibiæ, cough,
“ dyspnæa, expectoration, morning sweats, and fre-
“ quent pulse.”

VII. The bulk of Dr. Beddoes’ publication is occupied by the reports of DR. GEACH and MR. HAMMICK : These practitioners have nevertheless intimated, that the “ nitrous acid failed in
“ four or five instances, and failed too where the
“ cases have been apparently slight.” It would

be

be wrong, Dr. Geach very candidly observes,
“ to impute infallibility to it: The medicine has
“ failed in several instances, and so has mercury.
“ It will require time, acumen, extensive practice,
“ unprejudiced judgment, to bring this medicine
“ fairly to the test; to remark in what stages of the
“ disorder it will do good; where its success may
“ be doubtful; where it is certain. It seems to
“ answer better in buboes, chancres, excoriations,
“ than in venereal eruptions, disseminated over the
“ whole body.”

VIII. MR. SIMMONS, of Manchester, has detailed the following interesting case of secondary symptoms, in the appendix to Dr. Ferriar's third volume of medical histories. “ Mr. 's
“ man servant has been afflicted with a venereal
“ complaint for some time: The present symptoms are, nocturnal pains, extensive ulcers in the
“ tonsils, eruptions on the forehead, and hairy
“ scalp, and an abscess on the right side of the
“ scrotum, affecting the testicle on that side.—I directed him to take the muriated mercury, and to
“ suspend the scrotum in a bag-truss. On the
“ disappearance of the symptoms, he left off the
medicine;

“ medicine; the former consequently returned after
“ a short interval; and he has now ulcers in his ton-
“ sils and a discharge of matter from the scrotum.—
“ November 29th. I directed sixty drops of the
“ *nitric acid*, diluted in a quart of water, with some
“ sugar, to be taken daily.—December 4th. Throat
“ better; complains of great tenderness in his teeth
“ and gums, but there is no visible inflammation in
“ the latter. Ordered to take the medicine through
“ a quill.—December 7th. Throat better; no com-
“ plaint in the mouth; pains abated.—December
“ 14th. Throat the same; two days ago the eruption
“ re-appeared on his head and forehead. Increase the
“ acid to eighty drops daily.—December 29th.
“ Eighty drops made his throat so painful, that he
“ was obliged to lessen the dose to sixty: The ton-
“ sils are now healed; but an ulcer has appeared in
“ the angle at the base of the uvula, on the left side;
“ the eruption on the forehead is very itchy, but less
“ vivid; that on the scalp better. Let sixty drops
“ be taken daily.—January 10th, 1798. Tonsils
“ healed, but the new ulcer extends rapidly; erup-
“ tions less vivid. Again increase the dose to eighty
“ drops in a day.—January 16th. Ulcer increasing;
“ eruptions as vivid as at any former period; com-

“ plains of pain in his throat, and the return
“ of the nocturnal pains which had ceased ; his
“ countenance also looks heavy and oppressed,
“ exhibiting the same appearance as when he first
“ applied to me ; scrotum very little troublesome.
“ He cannot take more than sixty drops a day.—
“ Discontinue the nitric acid, and have recourse to
“ mercury.”

Mr. S. remarks that this case shews, “ the nitric
“ acid is capable of relieving ulcers of the tonsils
“ by its direct action; yet, that *it fails in permanently*
“ *removing secondary symptoms*, whatever temporary
“ relief it may afford.”—He adds, that he has given
the common *nitrous* acid in secondary symptoms,
under a variety of circumstances ; and that the re-
sult corresponds with the above recited case.

As it is here proposed only to bring forward the
experience of gentlemen who have *written* their sen-
timents upon this subject ; I shall not insist on the
accounts which DR. BAILLIE, MR. HEAVISIDE,
and other practitioners of distinguished ability in this
Metropolis, have given me of their unsuccessful trials :
Some of these will probably be made public by other
hands.

hands. But, in the interim, I beg leave to submit the following additional facts and observations to the reader's consideration.

On the 14th of March 1797, DR. GEORGE PEARSON, of London, shewed me the first communication of Mr. W. Scott, in the Bombay Courier, and requested me to make trial of the new medicine at the Lock Hospital. I had never before heard of this plan of treatment; nor did I *then* make myself thoroughly master of Mr. Scott's practice: Indeed, I gave the subject but little attention, till about six months after that period.—I shall transcribe my cases with all the fidelity and perspicuity of which I am capable: The reader may rest assured that there are no material inaccuracies or misrepresentations in them, arising from the deceitfulness of my memory; because they were noted, in all their essential points, from day to day, as I visited the patients. A few circumstances, in addition to those I noticed myself, were recorded by MR. DIXON, the resident pupil at the hospital, upon whose veracity I could fully depend.—It may likewise be mentioned, that it has been the uniform practice, at all times, to make an entry of whatever is remarkable in any of the

histories or diseases of the patients who are admitted; and that the books in which these minutes were made have been carefully examined, before I sent my papers to the press.

It will be perceived, that the majority of the patients on whom I have made my experiments, were labouring under a *confirmed* syphilis: This selection was made, because I thought the successful treatment of *primary* symptoms was not generally conclusive; and, because the efficacy of the new remedies has hitherto been chiefly supported by such fallacious events. I shall first relate the trials made in the early stages of *Lues Venerea*.

In detailing my experiments, I shall not enter minutely into every circumstance, (which would be tedious and uninteresting,) but merely state those particulars which can in any manner affect the leading question: And, such observations as are applicable to the cases in general, will be thrown together at the conclusion.

CHAPTER IV.

The Author's own experience of the effects of the new antivenereal remedies.

SECTION the First. *Twenty-three Experiments with the acid of nitre, the citric acid, and the oxygenated muriate of potash, in primary symptoms.*

THE FIRST CASE in which I tried the nitrous acid was that of GEORGE KELLY, aged 30 ; who was admitted into the Lock Hospital on the 30th of March 1797, with a glandular swelling in his right groin, which seemed inclined to suppurate. He contracted the venereal disease two months before ; and, at that time, had chancres : But, when he applied to me they were healed ; his mouth was also affected by mercurial medicines, which he had previously taken. —April the 4th. I prescribed him three measured drams of the common fuming acid, in a concentrated state, diluted with a quart of water. This quantity was ordered to be drank, by a cupful at a time, every twenty-four hours. —On the 6th. I encreased the acid

acid to four drams a day, as it agreed perfectly well. His gums, which before were rather swelled and tender, had now returned to a natural state; and the size of his bubo was a little reduced.—10th. The tumour had nearly disappeared. The acid was continued in the same proportion. He complained of a tenderness in his cheeks, which probably arose from the local effects of the acid; but he had no inclination to a ptyalism.—13th. His mouth in the same state; and the bubo quite gone.—17th. The acid now gave him violent pain in his bowels: I therefore directed one grain of opium to be taken occasionally.—20th. The acid was still continued without interruption, and was not omitted till the 24th.— I dismissed him, apparently cured, on the 27th; and have not heard of him since.

C A S E II.

JOHN LEWIS, in the 18th year of his age, was admitted under my care at the Lock Hospital, upon the 16th of September 1797; three months before which time he had contracted a gonorrhœa, and was soon afterwards affected with a tumour in his right groin. The swelling continued to get worse by degrees, and was in a state of suppuration when I first
of

saw him : He had also a slight phymosis, but no other complaint whatever.—On the 16th, 18th, and 20th, of this month, he rubbed in a dram of mercurial ointment ; as I had not then determined to use the new remedy : This must, therefore, be considered as so much the more favourable for his cure with the acid. —Sept. 21st. I directed him to take the following medicine, daily ; viz. of the *nitric* acid two drams, and of simple syrup four ounces, mixed with a pint and a half of water. A cataplasm, made of the cold saturnine lotion and linseed meal, was applied to the bubo.—28th. The medicine agreed well, and the tumour began to diminish.—October 5th. No inconvenience arose from the acid : It was repeated as before.—16th. The bubo was nearly dispersed.—25th. Quite well ; but the medicine was continued regularly till the 2nd of November.

In this, as well as in all the subsequent cases, I gave the acid by measure : A graduated glass vessel was used for that purpose, which is sufficiently accurate to estimate the necessary proportion in ordinary practice. In the present instance 84 drams had been taken, from the 21st of September to the 2nd of November. On comparing the weight of the *nitric* acid

acid (which was carefully prepared by Mr. Cox, near Temple Bar) I found this quantity to be at least equal to 147 drams ; which, as far as I could then judge, was giving the patient a fair trial for his perfect cure.—Unfortunately, however, he returned to me at the hospital in 28 days, having numerous venereal spots upon his face and body, with nocturnal pains in his limbs, and an ophthalmia tarsi. The eruption was undoubtedly decisive, whatever might have been thought of his other symptoms : I therefore put him upon a regular course of mercurial inunction, and discharged him perfectly well of every complaint on the 20th of January following.—I did not observe that the cure was effected by less mercury, or in a shorter time, than is usual in secondary affections.

C A S E III.

THOMAS PHILIPS, aged 20, came under my care on the 28th of September 1797, having slight chancres, small warts, and enlarged inguinal glands disposed to suppurate. He had been infected three months, and had used some mercury before he applied to me : He likewise employed five drams of mercurial ointment in the Lock Hospital, before the
acid

acid had been ordered.—On the 5th of October, and every day afterwards, he took two drams of the concentrated *nitrous acid* properly diluted and sweetened. At first this medicine vomited him, gave considerable pain in the bowels, and occasioned a general tremor: But it agreed after encreasing the proportion of the syrup.—16th. One bubo had lessened a little: A warm linseed poultice was applied to the groins daily, until the 6th of November.—9th. His medicine nauseates him at the time of taking it, but improves his appetite and produces a general tingling sensation upon the shin.—23d. No change of consequence has happened till now; the left groin is better and the right perfectly well. His tingling continues, and he complains of a coldness over his stomach when he takes the medicine. The inside of the prepuce is a little excoriated, as if a chancre would appear.—27th. The saturnine lotion was applied to his groin, to abate the inflammation which appeared to be encreasing around the bubo. Little warts are sprouting up from the excoriated part.—30th. The bubo has got worse and requires the pus to be discharged by a caustic. His medicine has been regularly continued; but it now gives him pains in his limbs, as well as the cold sensation and

nausea. The warts are more exuberant, and the ulcer in the groin has encreased.—December 4th. His stomach revolts against the acid mixture; his pains are worse; his sore in the groin still spreads; and opium, which I have lately ordered, does not give him rest at night. The plan of cure was now altered: Mercurial ointment was directed to be rubbed in; the sore was hereafter dressed with red precipitate mixed in cerate, and washed occasionally with a mercurial lotion.—6th. The bubo is beginning to lessen, and the excoriated part is better.—14th. Every venereal symptom has quite disappeared, except a small induration in the groin.—On the 31st he omitted the inunction, and left the hospital four days after. His constitution was considerably affected with *erethismus* by employing the mercury.

C A S E IV.

GEORGE HUGHES, aged 22, contracted the venereal disease about the middle of September 1797; at which time he had a glandular swelling in each groin. The same tumors remained on the 12th of October, when he was admitted into the hospital; but, they had burst and were covered with scabs. A warm linseed poultice was applied to the buboes, and

and the nitrous drink was administered as in the former case.—19th. The buboes seemed to be a little amended.—November 2nd. No material change has taken place these few last days.—9th. Considerably better. The acid continued as before.—20th. The swellings still diminish. The scabs having fallen off, I ordered the sores underneath to be dressed with simple cerate.—27th. The sores nearly healed.—December 4th. The groins ulcerating again, and do not yield good pus. The simple cerate and acid continued.—6th. Having made no farther progress, I left off the acid and ordered mercurial ointment to be rubbed into his thighs every night.—11th. Getting much better.—14th. The sores are scabbed over, but indurated glands remain.—January the 8th. No hardness in the groins. Perfectly cicatrized.—13th. Dismissed cured.—He used, in the whole, fifty-nine drams of the ointment, containing a third part of mercury; which is full as much as is commonly required in similar cases, where the acid has not been given.

C A S E V.

W. B. . . . consulted me on the 13th of October, with a chancre under the meatus urethræ and a
R 2 phymosis

phymosis, of three weeks duration. At that time I relied more on the favourable reports which had been given of the nitrous acid, than upon my own experience : I was therefore tempted to prescribe the acid mixture, with a saturnine lotion and cataplasm.——18th. He had diligently employed the means directed, and found himself considerably amended. The same plan was pursued till the 24th ; when he called upon me, and was rapidly improving.——November the 4th. The phymosis was quite gone, and the ulcer under the glans still healing : But on retracting the prepuce, a fresh ulceration was perceived upon the corona glandis. The acid was continued ; but the daily quantity of it was now increased, to three drams.——11th. The phymosis has in some measure returned, with an œdæmatous state of the prepuce, an inflammation of the glans, and a worse appearance of the ulcers. A decoction of poppy heads and chamomile flowers was ordered to be mixed with linseed meal, and applied warm twice a day.——15th. Fresh ulcerations are breaking out on different parts of the glans, and the old sores are spreading. I now directed the acid to be left off, and calomel pills to be taken daily : But, the patient having by some means discovered that

that I was making trial of a new medicine, told the Apothecary (z) to whom he had taken my prescriptions that he was dissatisfied. He afterwards did not chuse to consult me any more.—I cannot tell what was the sequel of this case; but there is no reason to felicitate the *philo acidi* on its progress, to the 15th of November. This was the first, (and will probably be the last,) private patient with whom I have ventured to hazard my reputation, by trusting to a new fangled scheme.

C A S E VI.

ROBERT CARR, in the 25th year of his age, was admitted under my care at the Lock, October the 26, 1797. His complaints were a very badly ulcerated and inflamed prepuce filled with large warts. It was eight months since he contracted the disease.—Dr. Pearson sent him to my house, before his admission: I then directed him to take the acid mixture of the usual strength, (two pints a day,) until he had procured a letter for the hospital—
November

(z) MR. GRIFFITH of Tottenham Court Road: who introduced the patient to me, and can vouch for the accuracy of this narration.

November the 2nd. Free from pain, but the warts and ulceration no better. The mixture continued, and a cold saturnine poultice applied to the parts affected—9th. The warts growing larger; the prepuce more inflamed, distended, and painful—13th. Much worse in all respects: The acid omitted; a saturnine lotion ordered to be injected within the prepuce; the cataplasm repeated as before—16th. The warts highly inflamed and very luxuriant.—18th. I removed the whole of the prepuce, and the warts which were attached to it.—24th. The patient goes on properly.—December the 4th. He was well enough to be discharged.

C A S E VII.

WILLIAM GREEN, 26 years of age, applied to me on the 26th of October last; having buboes of two years continuance, and ulcerations on his scrotum. He had taken no medicine during the last twelve months—A cold saturnine poultice was immediately applied to the sores; and the patient was ordered to drink the acid mixture every day, as in the preceding instance.—This plan agreed well, and produced an amendment in four days. —November the 13th. He was improving rapidly.

rapidly. The acid and cataplasm continued.—
20th. Nearly well in all respects.—27th. Per-
fectly cured.—30th. Left the hospital.

C A S E VIII.

THOMAS BARRAT, aged 28, was taken into
the Lock, upon the 26th of October, 1797.
Fifteen months before that time he became in-
fected with the Lues Venerea; and had inguinal
tumors, for which he used mercurial remedies.
When he came to me, he had chancres on the
corona glandis, of two months duration; likewise
severe pains in the shoulders, elbows, and knees:
But he had not taken any mercury the last three
months.—I ordered him fifteen grains of Dover's
Powder every night, and the warm bath twice a
week; also, a saturnine lotion for his chancres.
—October the 30th. He began the nitrous
drink: It made him very sick; but, he persevered
notwithstanding.—November the 6th. The pains
were better.—13th. The acid medicine con-
tinued: The pains rather less than before: The
chancres not amended at all.—16th. The
warm bath and opiate discontinued.—20th.
Nocturnal pains affect him across his forehead.

—23d. The pain in his arms severe again, and that in his forehead no better : Warts are sprouting out of the ulcers. I now renewed the dose of Dover's Powder for three nights; and ordered an escharotic application, to destroy the warts.—
27th. The patient told me “ he had got worse ever
“ since he left off the bath, but was then getting
“ better apace.”—Since the acid was not manifestly useful, it was omitted; and the warm bath was directed as at first. Mercurial inunction was now commenced : The warts were also obliged to be destroyed by the use of lunar caustic.—December the 14th. He has no pains at all. The warm bath omitted; but the inunction was continued till the 8th of January following.—He was dismissed well, on the 11th of the same month.—On the 3d of May he called upon me, to say the muscular pains in his arms and thighs have been very bad these two months past : Regarding them however, as a rheumatic affection, I did not admit him into the hospital again.

C A S E IX.

JEREMIAH PEACOCK, was admitted as a patient on the 9th of November last. His original symptom

symptom a year ago was a gonorrhæa; which, after some months, was followed by ulcerations within the prepuce: He had these complaints on his application to me; besides a phymosis and holes through the præputium, of two weeks continuance, for which he had never taken any medicine.---A linseed cataplastm and a saturnine lotion were used externally; while the nitrous mixture was taken internally. This plan was pursued, without any alteration, till the 20th; when warts were arising from within the prepuce, and through the ulcerated holes. — 27th. The ulcers got wider, and the warts more luxuriant; so that I found it necessary to remove all the diseased parts, by a free incision: The acid was now omitted. He got better in a few days, and on the 11th of December was nearly well. Finding himself apparently freed from the disorder, he left the hospital before I intended to discharge him.

C A S E X.

THOMAS PRICE, 23 years of age, was made a patient in the Lock, on the 9th of November. He contracted the venereal disease six months before; and, at the time of his admission, had a
s consider-

considerable quantity of enlarged indurated glands in each groin.—He began the nitrous acid on the 12th, when the buboes shewed a disposition to suppurate.—One of them ruptured and discharged some pus, on the 16th; but it healed spontaneously in four days. — 23rd. The buboes were larger and more painful: A cold saturnine poultice was applied to them. — 27th. They were both getting smaller; but, one of them enlarged again on the 30th. — He continued to take the acid regularly till December the 4th, two drams in each day, and then omitted it.—By having recourse to mercurial inunction, the swellings were lessened within a week, and went on well till the 23rd of December; at which time the patient quitted the hospital.

C A S E X I.

THOMAS NORTH, 23 years old, contracted the venereal disease in the beginning of October 1797, and applied to me five weeks afterwards. He then had enlarged, painful, and inflamed glands, in each groin. November the 12th, I ordered the nitrous mixture, sweetened and diluted as before mentioned; which he took daily until the 14th of December. At this

this time no progress had been made; but the buboes were both of them encreased in magnitude, and one was beginning to suppurate.—He then began to rub a dram of mercurial ointment into his thighs, every night, and persevered in it nearly a fortnight before his mouth was sore. The buboes were considerably diminished by this treatment, although one of them still contained pus.—I at length applied a small caustic to the suppurating part, and continued the course of mercury till a perfect cure was accomplished.

C A S E XII.

JOHN WILLIAMS, in the 20th year of his age, was received as a patient upon the 23rd of last November. His original complaints, which he contracted six months previous to his admission, were chancres: He endeavoured to get rid of these, by some trifling means; but had taken nothing for three months before I saw him. He then had chancres on the middle and upper part of the penis, with indurated glands in each groin.—I put him on the use of the nitrous medicine, two drams of the acid daily, and ordered his sores to be dressed with a simple ointment.—The

acid did not at all disagree with him; so that he was able to continue it without any intermission, or diminution of the quantity, till I desired him to desist.—No change of consequence occurred before the 10th or 11th of December, at which time his chancres were nearly healed, and the inguinal tumors diminished: There remained, however, a thickened skin, and a hard base around the cicatrized parts.—Scarce any alteration took place in the groins, for ten days longer; at which time he complained greatly of pains in his joints. — December the 28th. The buboes not so much tumefied, and unattended with inflammation. — January the 1st. They have lessened faster than usual these three days. — 4th. The acid has thrown out very small whitish pimples, with black points in their centre, accompanied with an itching sensation, all over his body. — 8th. His groins are very little swelled now: The medicine was continued for three days more. — 11th. Discharged from the hospital; after having taken 96 measured drams of the acid, equal to above 156 drams by weight (*a*).

On

(*a*) Here, and elsewhere, I have reckoned eight drams of

On the 19th of February he returned to me, with numerous, broad, syphilitic blotches, on his breast and face; also a venereal sarcotele, and an ill looking ulcer on one tonsil. He said his throat became sore a month ago; but that his eruptions had appeared only a week.—I immediately ordered the mercurial inunction.—On the second day after his re-admission, upon inspecting his throat very carefully, I discovered that *both* his tonsils were ulcerating, and likewise the posterior fauces. He was now directed to fumigate twice a day with factitious cinnabar, and rub in the mercurial ointment every night.—By the 5th of March all his ulcerations, and likewise the sarcotele, were entirely well: Most of the spots had also disappeared. — April 26th. He left the hospital, and promised to return if any relapse should occur. I have not heard of him since.

Nothing

of the acid in measure, to be equal with *fourteen* by weight: This is probably too low a computation; for I have sometimes found more than *fifteen* drams weight, in a measured ounce of the acid. But, these niceties are not of much importance in determining the main question, whether or not the acid be an antivenereal remedy?

Nothing worthy of peculiar notice happened during the mercurial course; nor could I perceive that the previous treatment, by nitrous acid, had occasioned any difference in the time or facility of his cure: But it should be hinted, that one dram of the ointment, containing a scruple of mercury, was as much as he could bear in 24 hours.

C A S E XIII.

JOHN STEVENS, aged 39, was admitted as a patient, on the 23rd of November; which was five months after he caught the disease. During part of that time he had been under Mr. FORD's care, at the Gerrard-Street Dispensary, and took mercurial pills till his mouth was sore. On applying to me he had an ulceration upon the prepuce and glans.—Immediate recourse was had to the nitrous acid, and the ulcerated parts were dressed with simple white cerate once a day.—The ulcer got better in ten days, and mended till the 14th of December, when it became stationary. — 18th. Fresh exulcerations appeared on the glans penis, and violent pains affected his limbs of a night: The acid also now disagreed with him, so that he was unable to retain it upon his stomach any longer

longer. A dram of mercurial ointment was ordered to be rubbed in every night.—28th. The ulcers were healing very fast, and his nocturnal pains had left him. — January the 3rd. He seemed perfectly well; and was dismissed upon the 11th of February, having then finished his mercurial course.

C A S E XIV.

JEREMIAH SULLIVAN, aged 40, was received into the hospital, on the 27th of April, 1797; at which time he had an indurated bubo, of only one week's continuance. He contracted a gonorrhœa four months previous to his admission; but, I could not learn that he had ever had any other intervening symptom. He was treated with mercury, in the usual manner, as I had not heard much of Mr. SCOTT's mode of curing this disease. — May the 8th. The bubo had greatly encreased in size; and his external fauces were rather swelled and painful. — 18th. Enlarged parotid glands appeared; in ten days time they ruptured and discharged a deal of matter.—The indurated bubo still encreased in the groin, and continued to be untractable for several weeks.—The patient's
general

general health seemed to require tonic remedies, and he evidently manifested a scrophulous constitution: I therefore gave him the decoction of cascarilla, and afterwards peruvian bark, three times a day.—He remained under my care till the 26th of August, and was then discharged; not perfectly cured of his glandular swellings, but, as I believed, entirely free from any venereal taint. Ninety-seven drams of mercurial ointment had been employed, before he left the hospital, containing a third part of its weight of mercury.

This patient was one of those who, knowing that he had been exposed to the infection of Lues Venerea, could not be persuaded that his disease was chiefly scrophulous and that mercury would never perfectly cure him. He was of a sanguineophlegmatic temperament; of a dejected cast of mind; his general habit enfeebled; and, in short, his constitution was precisely what Dr. Beddoes describes as being peculiarly fit for the use of nitrous acid. An opportunity soon offered for my trying the comparative effects of this remedy; for, the man returned to the hospital on the 4th of December last, with a painful and indurated tumor in

in the right groin, which had come forward during the preceding month: He also had the same kind of strumous swelling in his neck as formerly, together with distressing pains in his limbs. I gave him the nitrous mixture in the day, and an opiate every night. — 21st. His complaints got worse until this period; which induced me to order the warm bath twice a week, besides continuing the acid and opium. — 28th. His pains were relieved by the bath, each time he used it; but the tumor in his neck had now broken and ulcerated. A cold saturnine poultice was applied to the neck. — January the 4th. All his tumors were somewhat lessened; but the pains got worse, and the acid disagreed with his stomach. — 8th. The pains in his large joints were intolerable: In other respects he was the same. Finding no essential advantage, either from the acid or the warm bath, I omitted both; and ordered a dram or more of the volatile tincture of guaiacum three times a day, with fifteen grains of the compound powder of ipecacuanha (i. e. Dover's powder) to be taken at bed time. This plan was persisted in till the 22nd. of January, when no amendment was perceived: The patient's spirits were now quite gone; he be-

came wretched and impatient under his sufferings ; and could only be pacified by permitting him, a second time, to use mercurial ointment. Although I could not believe mercury was necessary, on the ground of his being still labouring under syphilis, I complied with the man's request because I had not given him any relief by a different mode of treatment.—He gradually amended, both in his pains and his tumors, by a slow course of inunction. Twenty-eight drams of the ointment reduced the inguinal glands almost entirely, but I thought it injured his general health: He desisted from using any more than thirty-three drams; and was dismissed February the 28th.

I do not consider this case worthy of special notice, on any other account than as it was of that kind in which the nitrous medicine has been very strongly (*b*) recommended: It certainly did no material good in this instance; and I have observed other

(*b*) " From the whole it clearly results, that where
" the constitution is broken, the habit feeble or scro-
" phulous, the cure should always be attempted by the
" nitrous acid, *in preference to any other medicine.*"—
Dr. Beddoes' Reports, p. 84.

other scrophulous subjects use the acid with as little advantage. Indeed, I cannot say from my present experience that I think the remedy is at all adapted to these glandular complaints.

C A S E XV.

NICHOLAS BROWN, in the 25th year of his age, had intercourse with a woman of ill fame, about the middle of January last: Three days afterwards, one of his groins became lightly inflamed, painful, and encreased a little in bulk every day. A week before I saw him a gonorrhœa came on, and both his groins swelled.—When he was admitted into the hospital, the tumor on his left side was as large as a pullet's egg, and suppurating; the other was in an indurated state. He had not taken any medicine whatever for his present disorder.

This was regarded as an unexceptionable case (with primary symptoms) for the trial of OXYGENATED MURIATE OF POTASH: I therefore ordered five grains, made into a pill with conserve of roses, to be taken three times on the 4th of January, and encreased every day after. Nothing was applied to his buboes; and he was kept in a clean

ward, separated from the other venereal patients. — 15th. Through a mistake, the man omitted his pills the four last days : He had now encreased their number to fourteen in a day, without any manifest advantage : His system was not yet affected by the medicine. — 18th. A more copious secretion of saliva ; but the patient's mouth was not at all sore, nor his gums swollen : His pulse beat 94 strokes in a minute : His tongue was not at all affected by the potash ; nor could I discover any other sensible operation. — 22nd. In all respects the same as on the 18th, except that the quantity of his urine was augmented. — 25th. The pills have been employed regularly ; he now takes twenty-four in the day : His tongue has at length become furred and whitish ; his pulse is encreased in frequency, and he complains of the pills having given him a violent head-ach : But his venereal symptoms are not in the least amended. — 27th. Yesterday and to day, the pills have caused such a burning pain in his stomach, with sickness and a sense of weight, that he cannot bear them any longer. His daily quantity had been augmented from two to twenty-six pills, each of which contained five grains ; so that in the whole, he took three ounces and thirty-

thirty-five grains, *without any advantage whatever.* His pulse, at the last, beat 110 times in a minute, and were irregularly intermitting; the head-ach &c. continued to be very distressing; and the buboes were become larger than when he first was admitted. — These circumstances determined me to commence a mercurial course, on the 29th of January. — He bore the mercury very ill; purging and griping were brought on by a very gentle mode of treatment; but, the tumors in his groins decreased in eleven days. — February 19th. One bubo is quite gone, and the other nearly so. — March 12th. The mercurial process has been very cautiously and slowly conducted: The little tumor remains stationary; a plaister of euphorbium was applied to it, but without much effect. — April 25th. I discharged him well, except the slight induration last mentioned; and ordered him to return if any relapse should occur. He came to me on the 7th of May, in the same state as when I dismissed him: Being satisfied that no ill consequences would result from this trifling symptom, I ordered nothing to be done; and have seen him no more since that time.

CASE XVI.

Mr. W. . . . of his Majesty's ship the *Romney*, was sent to me on the 5th of this month, by MESSRS. BLIETH and KILPIN, of Great Russel Street. Mr. W. brought me a short account of his case and the medical treatment he had experienced on board his ship, which was drawn up by the Surgeon himself: But, on making a few enquiries of the patient and of Mr. Kilpin, who had formerly attended him, I was enabled to obtain a more complete history; of which I subjoin the particulars.

This gentleman applied to Mr. Kilpin on the 8th of February last, for a chancre upon the right side of the glans penis, which appeared about ten days before. He was ordered to use two scruples of the unguentum hydrargyri fortius, (*Pharm: Lond:*) every night; at the same time the sore was dressed with the hydrargyrus nitratus ruber, mixed in some of the unguentum resinæ flavæ. — 13th. A small chancre had made its appearance on the inferior part of the glans near the labia urethræ: The mercurial ointment was encreased to one dram every night. — 16th. The first ulcer had spread considerably, and the other was become deeper,
more

more extensive, and had destroyed a small portion of the urethra: The daily quantity of ointment was now augmented to a dram and a half; Mr. W. was also desired to take a pill, containing half a grain of hydrargyrus calcinatus, every night.— His mouth became slightly affected with the mercury on the 24th; at which time the inferior chancre had reached the edge of the superior one, and formed an extensive ulceration: But, it had a florid and clean surface. — March the 1st. His mouth was not yet sufficiently affected; the chancre had now diminished in size, and went on healing till the 13th, when he was obliged to repair on board his ship. — His mouth got more tender, his gums swelled, a spitting came on, and the chancre healed rapidly, under the farther use of mercury administered by the surgeon of the Romney. — It was soon thought proper, however, to omit the mercurial inunction, &c. and to substitute LIME JUICE. The Surgeon's own words are, “ Suspecting the presence of scurvy, and well “ knowing the good effects of the citric acid in almost all kinds of ulcers, I ordered him at first “ unc: tres, ter in die; and afterwards encreased it “ to five times. It acted like a charm: The chancre “ assumed

“ assumed an healthy appearance, and some part of
“ it filled up. In this promising manner did it
“ proceed till about ten days ago, when the lime
“ juice began to gripe him and he fell very much
“ out of order : It was omitted. The chancre be-
“ gan to degenerate daily ; and has now encreased to
“ *three times its original size*. For some days the
“ mercurial course had been resumed ; but with-
“ out much hope of immediate benefit.—Regimen
“ may be of infinite service : Here, unfortunately,
“ the best cannot be obtained. Hence the pro-
“ priety of going on shore, in order to favour the
“ desired effect of medicines. — The external
“ application was, for the most part, an ointment
“ composed of cerat ; lapid : calam : four parts,
“ calomel : one part.—Arg : nit :—Calx hyd :
“ nit :—and the Acid : cit : were each of them
“ tried ; but from none of them was marked be-
“ nefit obtained.

“ D. W HYTE, Surgeon

“ of H. M. S. *Romney*,

“ 2nd. May, 1798.”

From the above account it appears, that while
Mr. W took from nine to fifteen ounces of
lime

lime juice in a day, the chancre "filled up:" But Mr. W. tells me he was at the same time using mercury; and that as soon as he forbore its use, although the acid was continued, the sore got worse, and spread to an alarming degree.—Believing this to have been a correct statement, I prescribed a similar course of medicine with that which Mr. KILPIN originally adopted: In four days, the ulcerated parts looked cleaner, and ceased spreading. The salivary glands were not affected by the mercury on the 25th of this month: I therefore directed two grains of calomel to be taken every day; in addition to the mercurial ointment, of which he had rubbed in a dram night and morning.—May 28th. The sore is perfectly free from sloughs, with a granulating healthy surface; but, as a portion of the urethra was destroyed, the patient's urine has irritated the ulcer and occasioned a slight bleeding several times. This day, I send my notes to the printer; and am in hopes, from my present success, that the case will go on happily.

C A S E XVII.

JOHN TUTHER, aged 21, came into the Lock Hospital, upon the 28th of April last, about six
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months after he had contracted the Lues Venerea. He originally had buboes; and the inguinal glands were in a state of induration when he applied to me: Beside which, he had a deep, extensive, and foul looking sore, upon the inferior part of the glans, of above a fortnight's continuance. He said, he not taken any mercury; but, that "Mr. OWEN, of Chancery-Lane, had given him the "peruvian bark, and applied poultices."

I immediately ordered a dram and a half of the *nitric* acid to be mixed with a quart of water, and taken daily. Two days afterwards, he retracted the prepuce; but being unable to bring it forward again, it had occasioned a degree of inflammation: I relieved him of the paraphymosis; and ordered him to use a saturnine poultice, as well as to inject a solution of acetated cerusse under his prepuce very frequently. — May the 3rd. I increased the daily quantity of the *nitric* acid to two drams, as it had agreed hitherto extremely well. — 7th. No amendment had yet taken place in the ulcer, and a phymosis had come on; I therefore directed him, beside the internal medicine, to bathe his legs and thighs, an hour morning and evening, in six pints of

of

of water acidulated with one measured ounce of the common nitrous acid.—10th. I could not discern the state of the ulcer, on account of the phymosis: The bathing had occasioned a troublesome tingling sensation in his skin, and the secretion of the urine was augmented. The bath was now made more acid *by half*, than I before ordered it: The nitric potion was likewise continued. — 13th. His swelled inguinal glands are getting better. — 21st. The ulcer is evidently lessened; though the prepuce cannot yet be drawn back entirely: The itching and heat upon his legs are so violent that he is unable to use the nitrous bath more than half an hour at a time: He spits a pint of saliva in twenty-four hours; but his gums are firm, and not at all in the state of a person who has employed mercury: The fauces and cheeks are tender and painful. — 24th. The chancre is nearly healed, and his other complaints are going off; but the salivation arising from the local action of the remedy still continues, and likewise the itching upon his legs when he bathes them. — 28th. On the eve of sending this case to the press, I called at the hospital: The patient informed me that he has been disturbed every night, for

about a week past, with excruciating pains in his shins. Upon examination, I found the upper part of both of the tibiæ very tender to the touch, and one of them a little swelled: Whether nodes be forming or not, time only can absolutely determine; but I fear some mischief of this kind is about to discover itself. He was desired still to persist in the nitric drink and bathing.

This is the last venereal case in which I have given the acid. It was administered at the particular request of Mr. SEATON of Westminster; who, hearing of my ill success, sent me a quantity, prepared for the express purpose of making accurate experiments. I have also used the same *nitric* acid in symptoms of confirmed Lues Venerea; the particulars of which will be related in the next section, together with a letter from Mr. SEATON. The high encomiums paid to the acid *bath*, by Mr. SCOTT, induced me to try its effect in other cases more conclusive than this.

C A S E XVIII.

ELIZABETH WHITE, aged 19 years, was admitted into the Lock Hospital on the 17th of August,

Augst, 1797. She had then been infected with the Lues Venerea four months. At the time of her coming under my care, she had a gonorrhæa, and very badly ulcerated labia pudendi.—Having passed through a course of mercurial inunction, the ulcer was found to be so slow in healing, that I ordered her to try the effect of the acid drink: She began it on the 12th of October, in the proportion of two drams of nitrous acid to a quart of water, every twenty-four hours. After taking it six days, with the greatest difficulty, she was obliged to desist from its use; not being able to keep a spoonful more on her stomach.

No benefit was derived from the acid during the six days it was exhibited, nor was much to have been expected in so short a time; but, from this and similar cases we may infer, that the acid (even if it were a specific) can never become a substitute for mercury, unless means be found of adapting it to all constitutions.

C A S E XIX.

MARY GARLIC, 19 years old, applied to the Lock Hospital on the 12th of October, 1797.

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Six weeks before, she contracted the venereal disease, and had a tumor in one of her groins. When she came to the hospital, she had the same tumor, in a state of suppuration, and a gonorrhœa. She had not taken any medicine. — October the 19th. I directed the nitrous mixture, as in the last case, a quart to be taken every day; and a linseed meal poultice, to be applied morning and evening to the bubo. — 27th. The bubo ruptured spontaneously: It was treated as before, and the acid mixture continued. — November the 2nd. I thought the patient began to get better: Her medicine agreed very well. — 13th. The discharge from the groin had become thin and ichorous: I therefore ordered the linseed meal to be mixed with salt water in future, and the acid to be repeated as before. — 16th. The sore looked much worse, was very painful, and spreading. Three drams of the acid were now ordered, in as many pints of water, to be drank every day. — 21st. The symptoms were rather worse than better, and no suppuration had taken place in the bubo: The patient was therefore ordered to omit the acid. — 27th. She began using mercurial ointment. I also directed the decoction of peruvian

ruvian bark, to be taken three times a day; and a poultice with crumb of bread and acetated litharge water, to be applied to the groin.—She mended in a short time, and was nearly cured of the ulcer by December the 11th.—I continued the course of mercury till the 19th of January, and dismissed her on the following day, perfectly well.

C A S E XX.

PHILLIS CHAPMAN, 21 years of age, was admitted into the Hospital, October the 26th, 1797. She was infected with gonorrhœa a month before she applied to me, which was followed by an enlarged inguinal gland and swelled nymphae. ---October the 28th. She began the nitrous acid, two drams daily, sweetened and diluted. In five days she began to amend.---November the 16th. The swellings were entirely gone.—The acid was continued as before, till the end of the month; when I dismissed her cured.

This case, if no relapse occurred, may certainly be numbered among the cures: But, in hospital practice it is no easy matter to ascertain who remains well; although the presumption ought always

ways to be on the favourable side, when patients do not return again.

C A S E XXI.

ELIZABETH CRAFTS, aged 22, applied to the Lock Hospital, November the 9th, 1797. — She contracted the venereal disease a month before her admission. At this period she had a gonorrhœa; with her labia and nymphæ considerably excoriated, inflamed, and swelled.—The same symptoms had continued from the time of being infected; and she never took any medicine for the disease, except a few doses of Glauber's Salts. — November the 10th. The external labia were dressed with simple ointment, and washed with saturnine water. Two pints of the nitrous mixture, containing two drams of the acid, were ordered to be drank daily. — On the 16th. She was in no respect better; but was greatly troubled with a pain and difficulty in making water. For this complaint, I directed a scruple of nitre to be taken three times a day, in addition to the acid mixture; and a warm linseed poultice to be applied, instead of the cold lotion. — 19th. Her symptoms were not at all amended; but the ardor urinæ encreased

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considerably: The nitre was ordered four times a day, and the acid continued as before.---21st. She this day discovered venereal spots coming out upon her face, neck, and bosom; her labia pudendi were beginning to ulcerate internally, and the other symptoms had not yet abated. These appearances induced me to forbid the continuance of the acid.---23d. She began to rub in one dram of mercurial ointment (containing a scruple of mercury) every night. In eight days the ulcerated and inflamed parts were better; the eruptions disappeared in four more; and, by the 18th of December, she was in all respects apparently well.--- A proper course of mercury compleated the cure.

In the above case, as well as in some others, I took for granted that the new medicine could not have removed the fresh symptoms, after it had failed in preventing their occurrence. In this opinion I suppose I am not singular.

C A S E XXII.

SARAH LEE, in the 19th year of her age, was taken into the hospital upon the 9th of November 1797, being three weeks after her having become

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infected

infected with a gonorrhæa. At the time of her admission she had, beside this last symptom, a dysuria, and an enlarged nympha which was slightly ulcerated. She began to take the acid mixture upon the following day.—12th. The dysuria was better.—20th. The discharge diminishing, but the ulceration not amended. A dressing of white simple ointment was now applied; which, in three days, produced an healthy appearance and healing of the sore.—27th. A fresh ulceration took place on the pudenda. The acid is still continued.—December 4th. The ulceration was quite healed.—21st. I dismissed her cured.—This woman was afterwards admitted into the Lock Asylum, and has remained perfectly well to the present time.

C A S E XXIII.

ELIZABETH KING, aged 16, became infected with the venereal disease toward the latter end of September last. She applied to me on the 23rd. of November; with an open, ill looking, bubo, and a profuse gonorrhæa. — On the 26th. She began to take the nitrous acid: A linseed poultice was also made use of twice a day, and a saturnine injection. — She was cured of the gonorrhæa by
the

the end of this month; but the ulcerated bubo had not begun to amend.---December the 11th. The sore looked very livid and foul. An ointment containing some red precipitate was now employed for a dressing to it, and the acid was discontinued. I likewise commenced a course of mercurial inunction.---14th. The bubo looks fresh and granulating. The patient complains of tenderness and tumefaction in her throat and fauces: Upon inspection, I perceived small sloughy spots on the tonsils.---21st. Her tonsils, &c. are quite well: But, feverish symptoms, with a languid and frequent pulse, forbid the present use of mercury; and indicate antimonial medicines.---January the 4th. During these last six days the mercury has been resumed; and the bubo, which before was stationary, is healing very fast.---18th. Extreme debility and erethism obliged me to order a generous diet and peruvian bark, in conjunction with the mercurial ointment.---24th. She was dismissed cured.

These are all the primary affections in which I have given the new remedies a fair trial, except *one more* which was overlooked when I sent the foregoing pages to the printer.

C A S E XXIV.

RICHARD PURSALL applied to me at the FINSBURY DISPENSARY, on the 10th of November 1797, with an indurated swelling in one of his groins, occasioned by cohabitation with an infected woman. I prescribed the same nitrous mixture as in the preceding cases: He took from two to three drams of the acid every day, until the 1st of January.---In the interim, the tumor inflamed, suppurated, and ruptured spontaneously: It continued some weeks in an ulcerated condition, and did not seem at all disposed to granulate. I therefore advised mercurial friction; and it nearly healed the sore in eight days, without changing the dressings previously employed. He was discharged well on the 24th of January.

SECTION the Second. *Twenty six cases of confirmed Syphilis, wherein the acid of nitre was exhibited.*

C A S E I.

THOMAS MAIN was received as a patient in the Lock Hospital on the 6th of April 1797. He was infected

infected with the Lues Venerea twelve months previous to his consulting me. His first symptoms were chancres ; which, after some time, were succeeded by copper-coloured scaly eruptions, clearly venereal, and an ulcer upon one of his legs : These were his complaints at the time of his admission ; but the spots were beginning to fade away, and his salivary glands were affected by calomel pills which he had lately taken.—This was the *second* patient to whom I gave the acid : I might have objected against him on account of the mercury he had already taken ; but, being at that time anxious to make trial of the new remedy, I took the earliest opportunity of doing so, leaving it for my future experience to make proper discriminations and exceptions.

April the 10th. I directed four drams of Mr. Cox's *nitric* acid, diluted in two pints of water, to be taken daily. This quantity was too much to begin with, and he had very great difficulty in taking it.—
13th. He complained heavily of the pain, nausea, and coldness, which the acid produced in his stomach, every time he drank it ; and told me “ the
“ mercury had done him good, but that this medi-
“ cine had not.” Notwithstanding the uneasiness he
endured

endured, the acid was continued, in the same proportion, till the 17th; when the pain, &c. became so insupportable, that it would have been cruel to insist on his persevering.—Mr. Scott's first report gave no precise direction as to the strength of the nitric acid drink, only he says that he "put half or three fourths of a madeira glass full of it in two pints of water;" I was therefore unacquainted with the exact mode in which it ought to have been managed, and did not order it to be more diluted in this man's case.—When he discontinued its use, after taking about twenty-eight measured drams, his venereal eruptions were not at all altered in their appearance: but his ptyalism was gone off entirely, and his gums were very firm.—A course of mercurial inunction completed the cure. I dismissed him (at his own request) on the 22nd of May, and have not seen him since.

C A S E — II.

JOHN MACAULEY, aged 28, became a patient at the Lock, upon the 11th day of May, 1797. Nearly five months before, he contracted a gonorrhæa; chancres afterwards appeared, and were followed by buboes in the groins. When he applied to me,

me, he had no venereal symptom beside eruptions, which were of the pustular form.—I gave him two drams of nitrous acid in a quart of water, without any syrup, to be taken daily. He also was directed to use the warm bath twice a week.—18th. The acid griped his bowels and made him sick; but he nevertheless persevered in taking it.—22nd. The acid agreed, and the spots were fading.—June 1st. The eruptions have become more vivid, and are larger upon his face. He says a slight salivation is come on, and that he spits half a pint in the day.—8th. The spots are manifestly getting still worse. Omit the acid.—He now began to use mercurial ointment. The spots went off rapidly after rubbing in twelve drams, and he was discharged cured on the 25th of July; no unpleasant effects having arisen from the mercurial process. Fifty one drams were employed in all.

C A S E III.

THOMAS DEATH, 24 years old, contracted a gonorrhæa in November 1794, which was afterwards succeeded by a bubo and venereal eruptions. On the 8th of August following he became my patient at the Lock, and passed through what I deemed a sufficient course of mercury to effect a permanent cure

cure: But, it should be observed, that his mouth could scarcely be affected by the mercury during this treatment. He was discharged from the hospital in the beginning of October, 1795. Exactly two years afterwards he was re-admitted, with several nodes on each of the tibiæ and an enlarged nose, besides fixed pains in his joints.—October the 6th. I directed two drams of nitrous acid to be mixed in a pint and a half of water and sweetened with eight ounces of simple syrup, to be drank every day: At the same time he used the warm bath, twice a week.

—11th. I was obliged to reduce the acid mixture to only half its original strength, on account of its having disagreed very much with his stomach.—16th His nose is well, and his pains are alleviated; but the nodes are not yet diminished. I again desired the acid mixture to be made as strong as at the first.

—19th. He still gets relief in his pains, the nodes begin to lessen, and his medicine agrees pretty well.

—26th. The nodes are getting smaller every day.

—November the 2nd. He still takes the acid with advantage.—6th. Nocturnal pains in his shins have lately broken his rest, and dispirited him. The next time I went to the hospital he had gone away, and has never again been heard of.

CASE

C A S E IV.

JAMES BIRD, a sailor from Portsmouth, in the 39th year of his age, was admitted under my care at the Lock Hospital on the 23d of August, 1794 : He then had nodes on both his tibiæ ; which, from the pain they were in, I supposed to be venereal.--- The history he gave me of his disease, was as follows. Four days after being connected with a woman of bad character, a gonorrhœa came on ; in three weeks more a little swelling, attended with extreme pain to the touch, and especially of a night, appeared on one of his shins : But, he never had, at any period of his life, either a chancre, bubo, eruption, or any other venereal symptom beside the node. To get rid of this painful complaint, which he thought was the consequence of illicit commerce, he had recourse to mercurial pills during his continuance at Portsmouth : They salivated him a great deal, and afforded relief. In a few months, however, he was as much afflicted with his leg as formerly, and was obliged to come up to London for his cure.—I put him upon a regular course of mercurial inunction : He rubbed in sixty-two drams of the ointment ; and during the whole course, spat

about eight or ten ounces of saliva in the day.— A fresh node made its appearance on the other shin, while he was using the mercury : But, he got apparently well, and had no nocturnal pains, by the middle of October ; when I discharged him, believing he was radically cured.—Although this patient was admitted, and treated as if his complaints were venereal, I at the same time expressed my doubts of their being genuine. Certain dubious cases will now and then present themselves to our notice, which have been previously called *Lues Venerea*, and have even been relieved by mercury : It would be cruel and impolitic to refuse such afflicted persons admission into the Hospital, merely because we could not distinctly ascertain the nature of their disease.

This patient applied again to me on the 30th of July 1795, more than nine months after I had discharged him from the Lock. He had the same symptoms as before, without any fresh infection. On my enquiring further into his history, he repeated the account I have already stated ; and protested it was entirely true. I again resumed the mercurial ointment : He used *one hundred and fourteen drams*, before I thought proper to dismiss him. Our oint-

ment

ment contains only a third part of its weight of mercury ; and is made by triturating it with simple hogslard, without any other addition.—His mouth was much more severely affected than it had formerly been ; and the daily quantity of saliva amounted to a pint and a half, very frequently two pints. Blisters were repeatedly applied to the nodes ; and at each time afforded relief from the pain, as well as lessened the tumors.—The nodes had not perfectly disappeared when I discharged him ; which was upon the 19th of November ; having been nearly sixteen weeks under my care.

October the 24th 1797, he came to me a third time ! The tumors on his legs were enlarged, and the pains of a night almost distracting : In fact he was worse than at any former period, both as to the number and tenderness of his nodes.—Since he went from me, MR. BIRCH had received him into *St. Thomas's Hospital* : He knew how I had treated the patient, and determined to adopt a different plan. He neither prescribed pills nor ointment, or any other preparation of mercury : But he gave the man (to use his own expression) “ a pitcher of diet drink “ every day for almost twenty weeks.” The poor

afflicted sailor, however, said that he "was nearly as bad when he came out of St. Thomas's as when he went in."—After he left that Hospital, he was so reduced and impoverished that he entered into Lambeth Workhouse as a pauper: Here was he again salivated; but it did not alleviate his nocturnal pains in the smallest degree, nor were the nodes diminished by the mercurial friction.—Having been more benefited at the Lock Hospital than any other place; he returned to me, as I before mentioned, on the 24th of October last: He then had used no medicine for nine weeks.

I thought, if the nitrous acid could cure this man, (whether his case were venereal or not) the pneumatic system of practice was invaluable, and would prove a real blessing to the world. I was immediately determined to give the acid a fair trial, and to begin with it the same day.—October the 24th. He took two drams, diluted and sweetened in the customary manner.—30th. He rested better than before. The nodes were a little reduced on the 2nd of November; but he then was attacked with violent pains in his knees.—6th. No pain, on touching the swelled tibiæ with my finger.—13th.

The

The tumors on his shins were lessened considerably, and not troublesome in the night.—16th. His knees were hot, tender, and extremely painful.—20th. In all respects better; though the nodes diminish very slowly.—23rd. His acid agrees well: He now takes *three drams* every day.—27th. The tibiae as before: The knees much more easy.—30th. Nocturnal pains returned in his shins: They were so bad last night, as to require the administration of opium.—December 4th. His nodes remain of the same size as they were a fortnight ago: The opium relieves his nightly pains: One knee is better.—11th. The pains in one leg are excruciating, although he still takes opium.—14th. The nodes have not diminished lately; and the pain in his leg, if possible, is worse than ever! The acid has been regularly continued, in the quantity last mentioned; but never affected his salivary glands, in the smallest degree: It seems to have strengthened the man's constitution, and improved his appetite.—As he now seemed quite at a stand, after having taken *one hundred and seventeen measured drams of the acid*, (two hundred and five by weight,) I could not believe the cure would be effected by this remedy *alone*: I therefore ordered mercury to
le

be rubbed in, while the acid was repeated as before.
—December the 18th. His torture has lately been *inexpressibly severe!* The mercury had not yet affected his mouth. Nothing was hereafter to be employed, except the mercurial friction, with a hot bath twice a week.—21st. He says the first bath has done him good: He sleeps better every night: His mouth is swelled, and he spits a pint daily.—26th. The salivation is greatly encreased: He spits nearly three pints a day. The pains are much amended; and the nodes are lessened considerably. Omit the ointment for one week, to relieve the soreness in his mouth.—1798, January the 2nd. He mends slowly, but uniformly: The mercury was ordered to be resumed.—8th. His pains have almost left him.—15th. No pain at all; but one of the nodes has enlarged lately.—25th. A dram of the ointment was directed night and morning: His spitting has nearly ceased.—February the 5th. The patient gets stout and strong under the mercurial course.—8th. A blister was applied over each of the nodous swellings: It lessened them very evidently.—Nothing material occurred till the 19th, when the salivation had encreased to three pints daily: The
mercury

mercury was now omitted, and more blisters were applied. He tells me he is better than he has been during the three preceding years.---28th. The spitting has not diminished. Repeat the blisters three times, in quick succession.---March the 7th. The spitting is lessened to a pint and a half a day. ---15th. He was desired to take five grains of the *pilulæ ex hydrargyro* (Pharm: Lond:) every night.---22nd. Five grains of the pills were directed to be taken twice a day.---April the 13th. I made him an out patient, as he desired to have fresh air and exercise: The pills were continued as before.---25th. He returned to inform me, that he had a pain and swelling on the inferior part of one leg.---May the 25th. I saw him now, for the last time: He says, "he works hard every day on board
" a ship in the Thames, and is as well as ever he
" was in his life, except in the lower part of one
" leg." On examining the part, I found a large tumor over the fibula; which I think will suppurate: But it does not appear to be a node. The pills were discontinued, and a warm plaister applied to the swelling.---He promised to see me again from time to time: The public may therefore expect to be informed of the sequel of his case.

CASE

C. A S E V.

WILLIAM PULKER, aged, 30, applied to me on the 26th of October last; having a partial phymosis and numerous eruptions, with nocturnal pains on both the tibiæ. His original complaint, a year before, was only a gonorrhæa. He had taken no medicine for the venereal disease.—October the 28th. He began the nitrous medicine.—November the 2nd. The acid agreed, and was continued.—6th. His spots looked more dull. He had gone three times into the warm bath, without my knowledge; and says, that his eruptions were less apparent after each time of bathing.—9th. His blotches are certainly better; but the nocturnal pains are more distressing, and prevent his sleep. An opiate was ordered to be taken every night, and the mixture repeated as at first.—13th. A purging and griping are occasioned by the acid. The pill of opium is to be taken twice a day.—16th. The spots are more elevated and getting vivid, but the pains are alleviated. His bowels are still violently affected. I now ordered two ounces of spirituous water (*aqua pimento*) to be added to the mixture. 20th.—His bowels are better. Omit the opium,
and

and repeat the medicine with spirituous water, &c.

—23rd. A painful node appears on the lower part of the left fibula, which breaks his night's rest: The spots are much more prominent and red on his face; while those on his body are not at all amended.

—27th. The pains in the night, and his eruptions, are rather worse than better. Having tried the acid more than a month, I did not think it right to trifle any longer: Mercury was hereafter employed.—December the 4th. His node, pains, and eruptions are nearly well.—11th. He has no ailment whatever. The mercurial course was continued till January the 20th; when I discharged him completely cured.

C A S E VI.

ROBERT CHACE, 25 years of age, was admitted under my care, October the 26th. He contracted the venereal disease four months before: His first symptoms were chancres; which he got rid of in a week, by taking eighteen pills. He has now lost his uvula and part of the soft palate, by an ulceration of two months continuance.—The acid mixture was administered immediately: He went twice into the warm bath, without my

order.—November the 6th. He told me he had an ulceration near the verge of the anus, which had been there two months; and likewise pains in his arms. No alteration was made in his treatment, except that a saturnine lotion was applied to the anus frequently.—9th. He used formerly to complain of a pain in his throat; but it is now removed: His appetite has improved lately. ---13th. I this day perceived an ulcer on the posterior part of the fauces: The palate looks cleaner than before, and the ulceration near the fundament is better.—16th. His throat is a little healed over.—20th. Much amendment in his palate and fauces; but a fistula lachrymalis has just appeared.—23rd. The fistula gets worse; the fauces better. He takes three drams of the acid daily.----29th. Getting better in his throat daily: He begins to loath his medicine.—December the 4th. Vesications appear on the palate and cheeks, likewise ulcerations upon his lips, from the immediate application of the acid; his gums also are tender, but not swelled, and the enamel on his teeth is considerably eroded: I am informed that he has had a salivation some time. The ulcers are healed in his throat; but pustular eruptions have

have just broken out on his face. I directed him in future to drink the acid mixture through a tube, to prevent its touching his teeth and cheeks, likewise to diminish the daily quantity of it to two drams.—11th. Not yet better of his lips and mouth: The salivation has encreased to three pints a day: The spots continue on his face.—18th. A bad *ozæna* has come on, with great pain, and a discharge of purulent matter from his nose: The fistula lachrymalis is going. In other respects, he is much the same as on the eleventh.—21st. I now again ordered three drams of the acid to be taken daily: His mouth, &c. is better; and he only spits one pint in twenty-four hours.—28th. His spitting has ceased entirely. The *ozæna* and puriform discharge continue. The eruptions on his face are of a dubious nature; but I begin to suspect they are *venereal*.—January the 1st, 1798. A single scabby eruption has come upon one leg. He still takes three drams of the acid; and, it agrees very well. His general health is good.—4th. The scab on his leg has enlarged; and he shews me more pustular eruptions upon his arms, like those which appeared nearly five weeks ago in his face. The complaint in his nose is much the same.—*He has already*

taken one hundred and sixty-five measured drams of the acid; which are equal to upwards of two hundred and eighty-nine drams by weight!—Some of his recent complaints seemed to be venereal; although the symptoms for which he first came under my care had entirely disappeared: I was therefore disposed to watch the progress of this curious case, and to desist from the new mode of treatment.—January the 5th. Omit the acid, and take *Pilulæ ex mica panis* bis in die.—11th. The scab on his leg encreases in its dimensions. The man gets fat and has a very keen appetite: In other respects he remains as before. I now made him an out patient, and desired him to continue the pills till I saw him again.—22nd. He had no spitting when he left the hospital; but, a salivation has since recurred: His front teeth are covered with tartar, and much injured by the acid: His gums are very painful; but not spongy as if he had used mercury, nor is his breath at all fetid. The other symptoms of disease remain stationary. *Perstet in usu pilularum micæ panis.*—29th. I discovered a deep and foul ulcer in the lower part of his posterior fauces. He continues to spit very much.—February the 5th. The ulcer has become as large as half a crown. I desired to see him
again

again in three days.—8th. The ulcer has not got larger; but is very filthy in its aspect, and clearly venereal: Some of the spots on his face now appear to be well marked syphilitic eruptions: I conclude that his ozæna is also venereal; especially as it has become much worse than before. Nothing would have justified my continuing the NEW SPECIFIC after this decisive trial: Mercury was the *only resource*; and it was well I had such an efficacious remedy to flee to.

On the 8th of February he rubbed a dram of mercurial ointment into his thighs, morning and evening.—He repeated the same quantity on the 10th, 12th, 13th, and 14th; after which he used it once a day till the 25th.—He was, by this time, materially relieved. The mercury having caused a copious discharge of saliva, and his gums being now tumefied, he rubbed in only a dram every alternate evening.—March the 3d. His throat is perfectly healed: His spots are all vanished: The ulcer in his nose is much better: But, the lachrymal sac has lately distended and inflamed as it did before.—8th. The fistula lachrymalis ruptured, and is healing again.—15th. His nose, &c. quite well. The mercurial friction was regularly continued, till the 20th of April;

April; at which time he had employed about seventy drams of the ointment. I now gave him five grains of the quicksilver pill, night and morning; and on the 30th made him an out patient.---May the 12th. He returned to me, and had more pills: They lasted him till the thirty first; when he came to the hospital and returned thanks for his cure, saying "he was as strong and hearty as ever."---*If there were no other case on record beside this, who could hesitate a moment in giving the preference to mercury?* WHAT CAN BE MORE CONCLUSIVE?

C A S E VII.

PRICE POWELL, 35 years old, came to the Lock Hospital on the 9th of November last; with an hard loose tumor in the prepuce, as large as a nut; and venereal eruptions all over his body, of one month's continuance. During the last four weeks he had taken no medicine.---It is uniformly the practice for all our venereal patients to go *once* into the warm bath, before they commence the usual course of treatment: This man inadvertently complied with the custom, before he began the nitrous acid.---13th. He took the mixture containing two drams; and repeated it every day, in the same quantity, till the 4th of December

ember following ; when I encreased it to three drams.—A fortnight after he had taken his medicine, grievous pains afflicted him in the night, and the spots became still more distinct ; some fresh ones also came out at that time : But the little swelling in the prepuce had lessened.—More venereal eruptions appeared in the first week of December. The acid was continued, three drams daily, till the 18th : He suffered no inconvenience from it, except an unusual sensation of heat in the chest ; nor was any effect produced on the mouth or salivary glands.—Having taken 84 measured drams to no good purpose, I put him on a course of mercury without delay.—The eruptions yielded after using only four drams of ointment ; they were greatly faded when he had employed eleven, and quite gone after rubbing in sixteen drams.—I dismissed him on the 4th of February ; having used sixty-six drams in all.—He bore the mercury extremely well.

C A S E VIII.

JOHN BRANGDON, 33 years of age, was admitted November the 16th. The history of his case renders it doubtful whether it was venereal or not. Four years before, he had chancres : They got well,
and

and were followed by no other symptom till within the last four months; when a firm and painful swelling came on one of his shins.—For this complaint I ordered the nitrous acid. He took it till the 4th of January, and then left the hospital. The pains were alleviated greatly; his node was much reduced, but not entirely gone: The acid, at last, made him giddy after taking each dose; otherwise it produced no disagreeable effect.—May the 7th. He returned to inform me that his leg has been very painful, during the late cold winds and changeable weather: The node remained as large as it was five months before.

C A S E IX.

THOMAS ALSEY, 18 years of age, applied to me November the 18th.—He contracted a venereal bubo twelve months before: It had disappeared when he came to the hospital; and was succeeded by a considerable number of pustular eruptions on his face and bosom, with ulcerating warts on the corona glandis. He employed the saturnine wash, and took the nitrous acid daily. His eruptions began to fade in one week; but the warts got larger and more inflamed.—30th. The spots were nearly vanished.—December 4th. He has no appearance of eruption remaining

remaining: The verrucæ still more luxuriant.---

11th. I applied the lapis infernalis to destroy them.

18th. A fresh set of venereal blotches appear on his arms. He spits a pint daily; but has not any soreness of the mouth, or swelled gums. The acid was ordered to be encreased to three drams a day.

29th. He is still salivated: The spots are in the same state: The warts have grown larger and covered the corona glandis. Omit the acid: He has taken ninety-two measured drams.---Seven drams of mercurial ointment caused the spots to fade a little, and diminished the inflamed state of the warts. He had no mark of disease remaining on the 16th of January; and was discharged February the 6th perfectly cured.

C A S E X.

ROBERT BLYTHE, aged 27, contracted the Lues Venerea about the middle of July 1797. His first and only symptom (he says) was an eruption: However that may be, he had no other venereal complaint when he applied to the hospital, December the 21st. ---The acid mixture was given: It agreed well, and made the spots disappear considerably in six days.---January the 2nd. He was still getting better; but

eloped, that day, without leave.—This imperfect memoir will strengthen the other proofs of the temporary good effect which may be sometimes produced by the nitrous acid.

C A S E X I.

JOHN BARTER, 21 years old, was taken into the hospital upon the 1st day of February last. At this time he had syphilitic eruptions all over his face and body. He had used no mercury for three months.—This patient was of a scrophulous constitution, and had large glandular swellings in his neck. I wished to see whether warm bathing and diaphoretic medicines would take away his eruptions, without any other means: The bath was therefore, ordered twice a week, and fifteen grains of Dover's powder every night. He likewise took a pill (*ex mica panis*) as a placebo, every evening and morning. The spots began to fade in a week; and went off more, by slow degrees, till the 19th of February: But, as they did not quite disappear, I omitted the warm bath, &c. and began Mr. W. Scott's new plan of THE NITROUS ABLUTION.—One ounce of the acid was mixed with eight pints of water, and put into a wooden vessel, to bathe
his

his legs and wash his thighs in morning and evening, an hour each time.—22nd. He told me the lotion was absorbed very fast, and made his skin smart excessively. Half an ounce more of the acid was superadded to the water.—26th. I ordered another half ounce to be added to the bath. He bore it even thus much acidulated, and thought his spots were rather more faded.—March the 1st. The patient informs me that the ablution always occasions considerable uneasiness, in the muscular parts of his feet, at the time of using it. The spots remain nearly stationary: The strumous swellings are getting worse and suppurating.—5th. He now has severe nocturnal pains in his shins; and the venereal eruptions are not altered in their appearance. The nitrous bath was regularly continued twice a day, for one hour.—8th. Finding no essential advantage from this plan, I desired the pills and wash to be laid aside; and a dram of mercurial ointment to be rubbed in every night.—In fifteen days the spots had nearly disappeared.—The mercury was persisted in till the 1st day of May, when I considered the patient as radically cured of his syphilis; but the scrophulus affection was not materially amended.—I gave him the nitrous drink

during the last nine days : It agreed with him, and improved his appetite.—May the 3rd. I dismissed him from the hospital.

C A S E X I I .

HENRY BEZANT applied to me at the *Finsbury Dispensary* on the 14th of October 1797, on account of an enlargement of the superior part of his tibia, which appeared about thirteen months before, and was soon followed by several creeping ulcers over the affected part. The painful state of this node, and the appearance of the ulcers, added to the long continuance of his complaint, induced me to conclude that it was a fit case for trying the comparative merits of the new antivenereal medicine : But the general history the man gave of his case, was too confused and incoherent to be worth recording.—He began by taking a dram and a half of the nitrous acid, diluted and sweetened, while the sores were dressed with yellow basilicon. In a fortnight he was freed from his nocturnal pains ; but the size of the nodous tumor and the state of the ulcers were not altered.—November the 8th. The acid was augmented to two drams, daily : He continued it regularly till the 14th; when his pains returned, the ulcers

got more inflamed and spread wider. The node at this time was not at all lessened.—21st. The symptoms were more and more aggravated, the medicine griped his bowels, and the plan was henceforth changed.—The sores were now dressed with ceratum lapidis calaminaris, in which was mixed some red nitrated mercury; and two grains of calomel were given him every night.—December the 1st. His pains and sores were much better. He was nearly cured by the 23rd; and on the fourth day after, no vestige remained of the node, pains, or ulcers. He took the pills till the 4th of January, to perfect his cure and prevent any relapse.

C A S E XIII.

GEORGE WELLS, aged 27, of a sanguineous temperament, and apparently of a good constitution, applied to me at the *Finsbury Dispensary* September 26, 1797. His complaints at this time were venereal ulcerations upon his forehead and face, with an ozæna. Twelve months ago he had a gonorrhæa, and chancres on the membrum virile; for which he took mercurial medicines, and thought himself cured. But, six months after, large blotches appeared in different parts of his body; which also went away
by

by taking more mercury : They soon broke out again, and began to ulcerate on his forehead and face ; after which, he likewise was troubled with a puriform discharge from his nostrils, attended with excoriation. It was in this stage of his disease he applied to the Dispensary.—As he seemed to be under the influence of mercury at this period (September 26.) I temporized a few weeks ; to see if the disease was still in progression, and to give it the chance of forming more distinctly before I put him under a course of the nitrous acid.—October the 20th. He came and told me an ulcer had lately appeared in his throat : On inspecting it, I found part of the soft palate and fauces to be sloughing away : He also had a painful node on the upper part of his right tibia. I then was confident that my former suspicions, of his case being a confirmed lues venerea, were too well founded ; and lost no time in exhibiting the nitrous acid, which I had previously ordered from Apothecaries Hall. He immediately began with a dram and a half, diluted in about 26 ounces of water and 4 ounces of simple syrup, which he took daily : He was likewise directed to take a grain of pure opium every night at bed time.—24th. His throat gets worse ; but his

his leg and other symptoms are much the same. The acid and opium were repeated as before.---27th. He thought he felt better in all respects ; but I could not perceive any amendment in his external symptoms, nor in the fauces. The opium was omitted, and the acid continued.---31st. The ulcer in his throat began to look cleaner, and the pain in his node was removed. The acid, which had now made his mouth tender, was repeated in the same proportion as before.---November the 3rd. No alteration for the worse ; and his throat getting more florid, as if it would begin soon to granulate.---7th. The symptoms were stationary: His acid was encreased to two drams a day.---10th. No alteration, either in the disease or the remedy ; except that I directed two ounces of *common treacle* to be used instead of the syrup. The acid mixture was found to be more palatable when sweetened in this manner.---14th. A swelling has appeared over the tendons upon the back of one hand, accompanied with pain and immobility of that part : The ulcers in his throat are getting more foul and wide than they were : His node is again become painful of a night : In other respects he is nearly as before. The acid was still repeated in the same quantity.---

47th.

17th. The ulcerations on his face and forehead do not heal; but are dried on their surface, without having any tendency to suppurate. The tibia is more painful, but not quite so much enlarged as it has been. The ulcers in the fauces and palate are not at all cleaner, and are manifestly wider, as well as deeper. The patient now began to take two drams and a half or three drams daily, as his stomach would bear it. He spits a considerable quantity every day.—21st. The ulcers look very ill on his face and forehead; those in his throat are spreading so fast as to threaten the loss of his uvula: The tibia is still very painful, and breaks his rest every night: The ozæna seems nearly stationary; but if there be any alteration, it is not for the better: His swelled hand is the same. ---This man having now taken the nitrous acid thirty-two days, in as large a quantity as he could be persuaded to use it, and *being upon the whole materially worse*, I did not venture to urge it any further; but immediately directed him to rub into his thighs one dram of strong mercurial ointment (*Pharm. Lond.*) every night, and to dress his external sores with a cerate in which some red nitrated mercury had been mixed.---Being in poor
cir.

circumstances, and in the open air almost every day, he was an unfavourable subject for a mercurial course; notwithstanding which, his sores became clean and began to suppurate, after the use of only half an ounce of ointment: His *tibia* was also much easier.—December the 2nd. The node had now nearly disappeared: No swelling was perceivable on his hand: The ulcers on his forehead and face were quite well: His throat and nose were likewise greatly amended. — 6th. The ozæna scarcely troubles him, and his ulcerated throat has almost healed over its whole extent. He employs a dram and a half of mercurial ointment every night, and begins to have his gums swelled: The ptyalism amounts to only half a pint in 24 hours; but he secretes a great deal of urine, and perspires very much every night.— There can be no doubt that mercury would have completed the cure; but he absconded, and I do not know the final event of the case.

C A S E XIV.

REBECCA PUDDICOMB, a middle aged married woman, applied to the DISPENSARY, on the 24th of November last. She had been afflicted with an

ulcer in the soft palate, eleven or twelve months; during which time she had been treated by Dr. DE VALANGIN, and other medical men, without any success. From the appearance of the ulcerated part I instantly concluded it to be venereal, and my opinion was strengthened by its not having yielded to common medicines: But the history of this case was rather obscure, and the woman herself did not suspect her situation to be what I told her it was. I ordered her two drams of the nitrous acid, to be taken daily, diluted with water, and sweetened with common treacle. She continued it steadily till the 29th, but got considerably worse.—This being a case in which the patient was in danger of being mutilated, unless relief could be had immediately, I left off the acid mixture; and prescribed two grains of calomel, with half a grain of opium, to be taken every night and morning.—In three days the ulcer began to heal, and promised fair for a very speedy cure: Sixteen days afterwards her throat was completely well. On the 27th of December, I saw her, and desired her to continue the calomel as before.—January the 16th, 1798. She returned thanks for her cure: But I ordered her to take a dozen more pills.

CASE

C A S E XV.

MARY SMITH, a middle aged married woman became my patient at the FINSBURY DISPENSARY, upon the 15th of December ult. She had an ulceration of the velum palati, and of the exterior parts of the alæ nasi, which I supposed were venereal: The former had been of twelve months, and the latter of four months, duration. But the history of her case was indistinct and unsatisfactory.

—The acid mixture was given her without delay.

—23rd. No alteration having yet taken place, she encreased the quantity of the nitrous acid to three drams a day.—January the 6th, 1798. The palate was healed over; but the ulcerated nose was manifestly worse. She still continued her medicine regularly; and only used a saturnine lotion to the nose.—10th. The alæ nasi were more swelled, inflamed, and ulcerating internally; but the mouth continued well. I believed it was the local action of the medicine which had healed the ulcer on her palate; and considered that, by longer delay, I should endanger the destruction of her nose: The mercurial ointment was therefore directed immediately, a dram to be rubbed into her thighs every night and morning.—In ten days the

sores were healing. They continued to lessen by degrees, and were apparently well on the 1st. day of February.—The mercurial friction was not omitted till the end of the month: I then dismissed her from the Dispensary.—As she has not returned, I conclude she remains well.

C A S E XVI.

HARRIET BROWN, aged 21, was admitted as a patient into the Lock-Hospital, December the 3rd, 1796, about two months after she had contracted the venereal disease. Her original complaints were a gonorrhæa and a bubo. When she came to me, the inguinal glands were considerably enlarged and indurated.—She passed through the usual course of mercurial inunction very gradually, and was dismissed apparently well, on the 19th of February. From the beginning to the end of her treatment, two or three pints of saliva were secreted every day; and the quantity of ointment she used in all was forty-two drams.—As she was afterwards received into the Lock Asylum, I had an opportunity of learning (to my great mortification) that the Lues was not radically destroyed. This *Proteus* again made its appearance in the form

of scaly eruptions, after a period of eleven weeks. I re-admitted her into the Hospital on the 8th of May, 1797.—At this juncture, I had been trying the efficacy of *Calomel* ointment; and, as I had found it to produce exactly the same good effects as the *blue* mercurial ointment (without being so uncleanly) I resolved to use it in the present case. A free salivation came on after anointing herself twice, (with half a dram each time, containing fifteen grains of calomel); and when five drams of the ointment had been used, all her spots were completely vanished: She then spat two pints and a half daily, and continued to secrete nearly as much till the end of her process.—Forty-four drams of ointment (containing half its weight of calomel) were rubbed in by the 21st of July; at which time I thought she was secured from any relapse.—A singular complaint occurred while the mercurial process was conducting: A tumor formed under her tongue, containing a viscid, gelatinous, and transparent substance, (much resembling the white of an egg,) included in a membranous cyst. I made a small puncture into the part with my lancet, and evacuated about four large spoonsful of the jelly. It collected again three times.

In

In this and several other instances, I have been rather minute in detailing the progress of the venereal disease, previous to my employing the acid: The reader, I hope, will not think me tedious; nor consider his time lost, in attending to the whole of the circumstances connected with each case.

HARRIET BROWN, was re-admitted into the Asylum.—On the 20th of September following, I was unfortunately informed of a *third relapse!* She was at this time almost covered with eruptions, had nocturnal pains in the upper part of her right ulna, and was become dull of hearing. An excellent opportunity now offered for my trying the comparative effects of the nitrous acid: I immediately ordered two drams to be taken daily.—After five weeks regular trial of this medicine, her spots were removed, except a few on her face and wrists. Each dose of the nitrous mixture produced a remarkable coldness within her body, and a tingling upon the skin; it likewise quickened her appetite extremely. She thrice used the hot bath, without my knowledge.—October the 30th. Only a few eruptions were remaining upon the upper lip.

lip. The medicine was still continued without intermission.—November the 9th. Neither the pains nor the deafness have hitherto got any better. I desired a grain of opium to be given her every night.—16th. Her nocturnal pains have been alleviated by the opium, but are as bad as ever in the day time: Many fresh eruptions are appearing upon her arms, and those on her lips have become reddened again: The deafness is not at all relieved, but rather worse.—20th. She is in no respect better. The acid occasions a nausea; but, it is to be continued in the same proportion.—23rd. The pain in her ulna still distresses her: She is likewise attacked with pains in her shins and knees, which keep her awake every night: More eruptions also appear on her arms and face. —Deeming it useless to persist in the acid any longer, I now directed the fourth part of a grain of muriated mercury to be taken in a pill night and morning.—27th. The eruptions have become more vivid on her face. Take one pill three times a day —December the 4th. She spits a pint and a half daily; her gums are tender; her spots are much better; but a severe griping in her bowels obliged me to lessen the quantity of the corrosive

rosive sublimate : I likewise ordered her to use the warm bath twice a week.—10th. The spots are all nearly gone off, even upon her lip. Continue the pill twice a day.—21st. The salivation has increased to a quart in the 24 hours.—January the 4th. In all respects well, except her bowels:—8th. I exchanged her medicine for the Pil: Hydrarg: Pharm: Lond: of which she is to take five grains thrice a day. Omit the bath.—11th. Two pills are hereafter to be taken night and morning.—25th. The salivation has been kept up thus long, in the quantity of two pints daily. Leave off the pills.—Above four months have elapsed since this period: She remained perfectly well a few days ago, when I called at the Asylum to enquire after her.

This is an instructive case on several accounts: While it proves the difficulty of rooting out the venereal disease in some peculiar constitutions, (even by diversified courses of mercury) it likewise demonstrates the total insufficiency of the nitrous acid.

CASE

C A S E XVII.

ELIZABETH SCARBOROUGH, in the 22nd year of her age, contracted the Lues Venerea in July 1797. Four months after this, she became my patient; at which time she had ulcerations on the alæ nasi and on one shoulder.—I ordered her the nitrous potion: It agreed very well, and afforded her a little relief by the 2nd of November.—Nothing remarkable occurred during this stage of her treatment: She went on gradually mending till the 16th, when the ulcerations on her shoulder and nose were almost healed: They had been dressed with simple white cerate.—Four days afterwards, while the sores were still diminishing on the external parts of the alæ nasi, they spread inwards and ulcerated the nostrils: Nocturnal pains in the tibiæ, at the same time disturbed her night's rest; but the shoulder had now quite healed.—27th. The pains in her shins are extremely tormenting: The nose gets worse internally; and an ophthalmia has affected her eyes.—30th. In addition to the other aggravations of her disorder, venereal blotches have broken out upon her face and bosom.—Experience now suggested the necessity of a different plan: The acid was relinquished, and mercurial friction adopted.—December the 6th. All

her venereal symptoms were going away rapidly.—
14th. Perfectly well.—29th. She eloped from the
hospital, before I proposed to discharge her.

C A S E XVIII.

ELEANOR ROBERTSON, 22 years of age, was admitted as a patient at the Lock, on the 26th of October last. Twelve months previous to this period, she became infected with the disease.—At the time of her admission she had ulcers within the labia pudendi, a profuse gonorrhœa, and a painful enlargement of the left tibia.—I ordered a vitriolic injection, a simple application to the ulcerated part, and the nitrous acid mixture. At first she was made sick by the acid; but, by taking smaller doses at a time, it afterwards agreed with her stomach, and was continued with regularity.—November the 2nd. Her pains were alleviated.—13th. The node was greatly diminished. Three days after, the nocturnal pains had quite left her.—23rd. The tumor is now stationary. The gonorrhœa has only just began to abate: Probably she has been negligent with the injection.—30th. The node is lessened a little; but the vaginal discharge is augmented. I desired her to use the injection very freely.—December the

11th. The tibia is not at all painful, though the node still remains.—18th. The gonorrhœa is now trifling. Repeat the acid and the injection as before. —22nd. I dismissed her from the hospital. She was received into the Asylum.

May the 21st. I called upon her, to enquire whether she remained well. The Matron informed me that she had sent her away (the 25th of April) on account of her being pregnant. One of the young women, who formerly slept in the same apartment with Robertson, told me “ She used to have “ restless nights, from violent pain she felt in a swelling upon her shin as large as a walnut.”—This testimony, coming from a person who could have no temptation to deceive me, and who did not know the object of my enquiry, must be admitted as a proof that the acid had not effected a permanent cure.

C A S E XIX.

SARAH DOUGLAS, aged 26, contracted a gonorrhœa in the year 1795. I could not learn that she had, after this, any genuine venereal symptom: But a sore throat came on; for which she had been *seven times* salivated, (within these two years) and was

under the influence of mercury on the 9th of November 1797, when she first applied to me for relief at the Hospital. At this time she likewise had severe pains in her knees, and one of them was so inflexible that she walked with great difficulty.—As she had been treated by several practitioners for the *Lues Venerea*, and would probably have fallen into the hands of ignorant persons if I had rejected her, she was admitted. Similar equivocal cases are very frequently sent to the Lock : In peculiarly distressing instances, where patients would be likely to suffer from mismanagement, they are taken in, although not evidently venereal.—I gave her the acid mixture, with a common gargle : She was unable to bear more than half the usual quantity upon her stomach, as it had occasioned a violent corroding sensation.—November the 20th. Her pulse was very frequent ; she had been delirious several times since I last saw her ; and is now incapable of keeping the medicines upon her stomach any longer. Her sore throat, however, is perfectly well ; but she spits three pints in 24 hours : The knees have been also greatly relieved, by using the warm bath.—I prescribed peruvian bark, and made her an out patient : But she never called upon me any more.

C A S E XX.

SARAH FRAMPTON, 18 years of age, was admitted November the 9th, for large venereal ulcers on her arms and thighs, a scabby excrescence full an inch long upon the left ala nasi, and the vestiges of numerous eruptions on different parts of her body. She had formerly taken mercury with advantage at the Western Dispensary.—A simple ointment was applied to the sores ; nothing was done to the excrescence on the nose ; and the nitrous acid was administered, in the proportion of two drams to a quart of water.—November the 20th. The acid medicine improves her appetite, and gives her strength ; but she cannot sleep, and the scab elongates daily.—27th. Her face has broken out with distinct syphilitic spots ; the excrescence gets still larger in its dimensions ; and the ulcerations are no better. I therefore put her on the use of mercury, and omitted the acid.—December the 4th. The venereal spots are more dull ; the ulcers heal ; but the nose has not yet altered.—6th. The eruptions disappear, and the scabby excrescence upon her nose gets loose.—9th. The scab has fallen off. She tells me the ointment is absorbed with the greatest difficulty : Her gums are but little affected with the mercury.—11th. All the symptoms get better
very

very fast.—28th. Her nose is perfectly healed, and the other complaints have got well.—January the 31st. As her mouth was not properly affected, the mercurial inunction has been continued till this day. She then was permitted to go into the Asylum.—Though eighty six drams of the ointment were employed; a painful suppurating node appeared on her left tibia, and three very large scabby blotches on her head, in so short a time as one month afterwards.—May the 1st. I re-commenced a mercurial course: But she thought proper to elope, after rubbing in only nineteen drams.

C A S E XXI.

SOPHIA BURTON, aged 24, was admitted under my care on the 23rd of November, six months after having been attacked with venereal symptoms. She had an ulceration in the soft palate, which had entirely destroyed the uvula; with an ulcer, at least as large as a shilling, upon her upper lip; and a considerable degree of deafness.—Her original complaints were removed by mercury: A month afterwards eruptions appeared, for which she also used mercury and was apparently cured; but, since that time the above named symptoms occurred, and she has not again had

had recourse to medicine.—The nitrous mixture was directed, and she attempted to take it ; but it gave her such extreme pain in passing down the throat, that she could not possibly drink it.—The oxygenated muriate of potash was next tried, with no better success ; for she was unable to swallow a single dose.—I then commenced a course of mercurial inunction, and removed all the symptoms with facility. She was greatly debilitated by the necessary treatment ; and I again ordered her to try the acid, after her throat was well : But it purged and vomited her so violently, that I was obliged to discontinue its use in four days.—Here then was a case in which, if we had not had any resource beside the nitrous acid and the other new remedies, the patient must infallibly have perished. This is not the only instance of the kind I have met with : But it would be tedious to detail all the cases in which the new plan of treatment was begun and immediately discontinued, on account of the inconveniences it occasioned.

C A S E XXII.

ANN HOWES, 21 years of age, contracted a gonorrhœa during the latter end of October 1797 : It was succeeded by tumors in the groin, eruptions, ulcerated

ulcerated tonsils, and an obstinate hoarseness.—She applied to the hospital December the 7th, and was desired to use the acid drink: It disagreed with her on the 23rd, and could not be made to continue on her stomach by all the means I employed.—She omitted this medicine on the 25th; at which time no amendment was produced in the venereal complaints.—Four drams of mercurial ointment caused the eruptions to fade, and the throat to heal over: Twenty drams relieved the hoarseness.—On the first day of March, I dismissed her cured.

C A S E XXIII.

SARAH GAYLEARD, a married woman, in the 45th year of her age, was admitted into the Lock Hospital, September the 29th, 1797. She told me that she had borne fifteen children; that her husband was a regular and faithful man, in good health; and that she had caught the disease of a child which died at two months old. She said this child was known by Mr. Mackinder, (a Surgeon in Edgeware Road,) to have been covered with venereal sores; that she nursed it, and used to dress the ulcers daily: She was not careful to keep her fingers from being soiled with the matter; in consequence of which three of her

her fingers on one hand, and two on the other, became inflamed and suppurated as if she had whitloes. A month afterwards, her arms, and then her body, broke out in blotches: At this time she shewed herself to Mr. ANDREWS, a medical gentleman; but took nothing for her disease. In another month she applied to me, and had the venereal spots upon her, which Mr. ANDREWS had seen.—Although the particulars of this account are rather extraordinary, they were so well connected and told that I thought them worth repeating.—She used the hot bath three times previous to her taking the nitrous acid.—October the 5th. Just before I prescribed the acid, I discovered ulcerations coming on the velum palati. She was ordered to take two drams daily.—9th. It occasioned violent pain and sickness at every dose: Eight ounces of syrup were added to a quart of the diluted acid.—12th. Her medicine agrees very well, and the spots are a little faded.—17th. The ulcerations on her palate have healed. Repeat the acid as before.—25th. Her spots are going off rapidly.—November the 2nd. Still getting better. Encrease the daily quantity of acid to three drams.—9th. The

medicine was again reduced to its original strength; it having purged and vomited her lately. I now made her an out patient, as she wished to return to her family, and promised to continue the medicine. Scarce any eruptions were perceivable at present.—19th. She informed me that she had every night been attacked with severe pain in her shin bones: Her eruptions were also re-appearing. I ordered an opiate pill at bed time, and the acid to be continued as before.—23rd. The nocturnal pains have encreased; the old spots have become more manifest; fresh ones are breaking out upon her bosom, and upon the nape of her neck. She protests that the acid mixture has been regularly employed as I directed.—26th. I again took her into the Hospital, and desired a dram of mercurial ointment to be used every night; but to discontinue the acid: A warm bath was also recommended twice a week.—28th. On using the bath she shed two of her toe nails, as she formerly did those of her fingers.—After nine days more, the spots and pains were getting better: In fifteen, they were nearly gone.—January the 1st. She tells me, that every nail, except two, have come off her fingers and toes, during the progress of

of this disease; and those two are at present loose. She wished now to be made an out patient: I granted her request, and compleated her cure by giving the mercurial pills of the London Pharmacopœia.

With a view to ascertain how far the singular history given by this woman was true, I wrote to Mr. MACKINDER, requesting he would inform me what he knew of the circumstances above-mentioned. He gave me the following answer.

DEAR SIR,

On the sixth of April, 1797, I was sent for to see the child which was nursed by Mrs. GAYLEARD. To the best of my recollection, it was universally covered with venereal ulcerations; all its nails were lost, and its eyes were particularly bad. I ordered it six powders, each of which contained half a grain of calomel; and a lotion for the eyes: One powder was to be taken night and morning. On the 9th I repeated the powders and desired Mrs. G... to let the child's parents know that it was in great danger: The next night it died. Mrs. G... at this time complained of

uneasiness in the extremities of her fingers, and general irritation. I ordered her an opening mixture, and intended to have sent her some mercurial medicines; but she suddenly left the neighbourhood, and I have not seen her since.

I am, dear Sir,

Your's respectfully,

June the 6th, 1798.

Edgeware-Road,

J. MACKINDER.

C A S E XXIV.

MARY SYMONDS, aged 34, was admitted into the Lock on the 28th of April last. She had had the venereal disease twelve months: Her present complaints were, an aperture and sloughing in the posterior and lateral part of the roof of her mouth, an ulcerated ala nasi, a small sore upon the left shoulder, with a caries of the processus acromion scapulæ, and nocturnal pains in her limbs.—I have before suggested (*page 156, case xvii.*) that Mr. SEATON, of Westminster, sent me some *nitric acid* very carefully prepared, and that he requested me to make trial of it in a few venereal cases: This is another of the patients to whom I administered Mr. SEATON's acid.—April
the

the 28th. One dram and a half was diluted with two pints of water, without any syrup, and directed to be drank every day: But it made her so very sick, and produced so distressing an heart-burn, that she omitted it on the second day.—30th. To a quart of water was added one dram of the nitric acid, and forty drops of the tincture of opium: This quantity was hereafter drank daily, and agreed pretty well with her stomach.—May the 3rd. The ulcer on her nose extends itself lower, and gets deeper: It was dressed with white cerate.—7th. The palate is rather worse; but the shoulder remains unaltered: Her secretion of urine has increased lately, I now ordered, in conjunction with the internal remedy, the nitrous ACID BATH; consisting of six pints of water, and one measured ounce of the acid, to be used an hour night and morning, after the manner directed by Mr. SCOTT.—10th. She feels a very cold unpleasant sensation all over her, and a bearing down of the womb, every time the bath is used: The venereal ulcers are stationary. Half an ounce more of the nitrous acid was superadded to the bath.—13th. Besides the cold sensation and bearing down before-mentioned, she now complains of sickness after each dose

dose of the medicine, and painful bloody stools: Her strength and appetite likewise fail daily. The internal use of the acid was ordered to be discontinued for a few days; but it was to be employed externally: Porter and broth diet were likewise allowed; and a decoction of peruvian bark, with the tincture, was prescribed to be taken three times a day.—21st. A painful node was lately discovered on the right clavicle; it is very tender to the touch, and breaks her rest in the night: The ulcer in the palate is a little extended; but that on her nose has decreased considerably: Her shoulder remains in the same state as before. She has been regular in using the acid bath; and says, it still occasions the bearing down, the bloody stools, and the cold sensation. The appearance of a node was considered as an unequivocal proof that the Lues was in a state of progression, and that the acid was totally useless.—22nd. This day the bath was employed for the last time: Having now observed a spitting, I enquired how long it had been; and was told, “she has daily spit a pint ever since “she has been in the Hospital.” Last night she rubbed in a dram of mercurial ointment; and was desired to continue it every night, as well as to

use

use a fumigation of cinnabar twice a day.—25th. The nose is nearly healed: The cold feeling and bloody evacuations have left her; but the bearing down of the uterus is not yet well.—29th. Her nose is quite cicatrized; the clavicle not at all painful, and very little swelled; the ulcerated palate looks cleaner, and has begun to granulate.—June 7th. She still gets better in all respects, especially in her mouth; and I have no doubt of her going on properly hereafter.

The case of JOHN TUTHER, (page 153, &c.) in which Mr. Seaton's nitric acid was administered, has been printed off several days: It was then left imperfect, and I expressed apprehensions that secondary symptoms were about to make their appearance. This day (June the seventh.) I have an opportunity of verifying my prediction: For the patient has painful swellings on the joints of his fingers; he is likewise sprinkled with venereal eruptions upon his face and arms! The nitric acid, however carefully prepared, is therefore no more to be depended on for curing the syphilis, than the common fuming nitrous acid.—I shall now recite

recite a third case wherein Mr. SEATON's remedy failed entirely.

C A S E XXV.

ELIZABETH TURNER, 20 years old, was admitted April the 28th. She contracted the Lues Venerea six months before: Her first symptom was a gonorrhæa, which was succeeded by a bubo; afterwards eruptions appeared about her body. For this complaint she underwent a mercurial course, at GUY'S HOSPITAL, under the care of Mr. Cooper: But, in the sixth week after her discharge, the eruptions returned. In this state she applied to me.—I gave her a dram and a half of the nitric acid, prepared by Mr. SEATON, diluted with two pints of water, and without any syrup. It occasioned pains in her stomach at first; but, by adding some tincture of opium to the drink, and giving a grain of opium at night, she was enabled to continue its use with regularity.—March the 7th. Two drams of the acid were taken daily, from this time.—10th. The spots are going off, but the gonorrhæa has greatly encreased. Patients with a gonorrhæa have in general employed a vitriolic injection; but this woman did not use any thing
for

for that symptom.—13th. Numerous fresh eruptions have come out on her forehead ; and the acid occasions a distressing oppression on the brain, with giddiness, head-ach, and pain in her stomach.—She now desisted from the acid ; upon which the complaint in her head went off, and the venereal spots remained stationary till I put her upon a course of mercurial inunction.—Nine drams of the ointment dispersed the eruptions. She is now continuing the treatment with mercury ; and was this day (June the 7th) going on perfectly well.

This seems to be the proper place for introducing a letter which accompanied the nitric acid sent to me by MR. SEATON.

DEAR SIR,

I beg your pardon for not sending the nitric acid sooner ; but I have been so engaged in removing to Bridge Street, that, although it has been in readiness for near a month, I forgot from day to day to forward it.

I have tried the article now sent, by a solution of silver ; and can answer for its not containing any

E e

marine

marine acid :—Its specific gravity is 1.40 : It is oxydated, or freed from its superabundant azote, by distillation from manganese ; and therefore has all the qualities requisite for accurate experiments. I think it would be adviseable to give it without any sugar ; and be very careful that it is taken before evidence.—May I just suggest a fair trial in mild as well as inveterate cases ?

The bearer is the servant of a friend of mine, and he unfortunately has a relation in a deplorable state. If you can take her under your care, in the Lock Hospital, you will very much oblige,

Dear Sir,

Your faithful humble servant,

JAMES SEATON.

April 25, 1798.

C A S E XXVI.

JOHN NOWLAND, aged 24, became my patient at the Hospital, March the 23rd.—Three years ago he contracted a gonorrhæa and phymosis, which got well, on taking mercury ; but, a few months after, his tibiæ swelled in their centre, and have continued to get worse till nearly the present time. The node upon

upon his right leg was almost six inches in length ; the other was not larger than a goose's egg ; and both of them were in excruciating pain every night.

I ordered him one dram of the nitrous acid, diluted with a quart of water, to be taken daily. It was encreased to two drams on the 27th of March, and agreed perfectly well.—No amendment took place in the symptoms until April the 5th, when his pains had become easier. I now applied blisters to each of the nodes, which reduced their size considerably.—13th. The pain still diminishes, and the acid gives him an excellent appetite.—19th. I repeated the blisters : They again reduced the nodous swellings. The pain in them is very trifling.—27th. The nodes have lessened more and more : They are at present quite easy.—I continued the acid till the 7th of May ; at which time he informed me of his having been previously treated in a similar manner, at the *Plymouth Hospital*. His account was, that he had been admitted there in the beginning of December last ; and that he was discharged, as an invalid unfit for service, “ *after taking a sour medicine for two months.*”

That the nocturnal pains had in this case been totally removed by the acid, was evident ; but, how long the patient would continue well, was very uncertain. I judged, partly from my late experience, and partly from the man's account, that his relief would probably be only temporary : I therefore did not chuse to dismiss him without endeavouring, by a course of mercury, to procure him *permanent* relief. —On the same day the acid was omitted, I desired a dram of mercurial ointment to be rubbed in. His gums began to be affected very speedily : When he had used only fifteen drams, (one each night,) his mouth and bowels were so extremely bad, that I was obliged to desist from the friction entirely. —After waiting till this day (June the 7th) I found him in a fit state to begin taking the fourth part of a grain of muriated mercury night and morning. His nodes were now still more lessened ; and indeed, one of them had entirely disappeared : His pains also had quite left him. The ptyalism at present amounts to about one pint in a day.

SECTION the Third. *Eleven trials with the oxygenated muriate of potash, in advanced stages of the Lues Venerea.*

HITHERTO I have afforded but little cause of congratulation : Forty-nine trials with the acid, and one with the kali, have been detailed ; wherein my success has been very small indeed. *The oxygenated muriate of kali*, however, is recommended as far superior to the acids : The reader may therefore expect, that the following eleven cases in which this remedy was fairly exhibited, will prove more satisfactory than the preceding.—Let us now appeal to simple matters of fact. “ Non fingendum, aut ex-
“ cogitandum, sed inveniendum, quid natura ferat
“ aut faciat.”—BACON.

C A S E I.

THOMAS COOPER, 20 years of age, contracted a gonorrhœa in July 1797, which was succeeded by chancres and enlarged inguinal glands. After he was rid of these, large scabby blotches broke out in various parts of his face and body ; together with ulcerations on his toes, fauces, and posterior nares. In
this

this advanced stage of the disease he applied to me, at the Lock Hospital, October the 12th. He was in other respects a very bad subject, being hectic and emaciated to the last degree.—Having determined to give the oxygenated muriate of potash a trial in this case, I desired some to be procured from Mr. COXWELL near Temple Bar. I supposed what was sent to have been of the best quality, as Mr. Coxwell assured Mr. Dixon it “might be depended on.”—October the 17th. Five grains of the potash were made into a pill, with conserve of roses, and taken twice the first day: It was directed to be encreased to *three* pills the day following, *four* the next day, and one more every succeeding day.—He continued to augment the daily proportion, until he arrived at fourteen pills, (seventy grains,) when he could not bear them any longer, without the greatest difficulty: They occasioned a violent pain in his stomach, bowels, and head, on the 27th of October; and were so very obnoxious to his feelings on the 6th of November, that he then discontinued taking them. At this time, he had swallowed as many pills as contained nineteen drams and two scruples of the potash.—By an oversight it happened, that his ulcerated blotches and incrustations had been dressed with a cerate in which
red

red nitrated mercury had been mixed : Some of the sores were healed by this dressing ; but others had become deeper and more virulent, especially those on his face : The smaller eruptions were not altered in their appearance ; the fauces ulcerated farther ; an ophthalmia (which afterwards destroyed one eye) attacked him on the 2nd of November ; a salivation ensued, amounting to a pint and a half or two pints in twenty-four hours ; his gums became a little tender ; his appetite entirely failed him ; and he had at last, a white tongue, frequent and soft pulse, with extreme prostration of strength.—Nothing short of death could now be looked for, as a relief to the sufferings of this wretched object.—I put him on a mercurial course, with hardly a ray of hope of his recovery : He fumigated his throat twice a day with cinnabar, and rubbed in the ointment by slow degrees.—He shewed signs of amendment in six days : In four more, the scabs fell off his face, his ulcerations were healing rapidly, his appetite improved, and he slept better.—Soon afterwards his throat got cleaner and began to heal : On the 20th of November he sat up part of the day, and found himself astonishingly recovered.—But, unhappily, a bad diarrhœa came on, which reduced him to his former
state

state of debility. Opiates did not relieve this symptom. The ointment was exchanged for small doses of muriated mercury.—He afterwards lost strength, and could not be kept from getting more feeble by all the tonic remedies I employed: He had sago, rice, tapioca, port wine, and such other articles of diet as were suggested by his deplorable case.—In the interim his venereal symptoms continued to get surprizingly better: But, his relations desired him to be removed to Windsor on the 19th of February; and I have not heard of him since.

Having been so little encouraged by the progress of this case; I never afterward administered the oxygenated muriate of potash in any instance of so malignant a nature. I was induced, at the first, to select a bad case; because, I believed, if this remedy was superior to the nitrous acid, (which had been so greatly extolled) the *worst* states of the disease were the most proper for making an experiment with it.

C A S E II.

JAMES CLARK, aged 25, was admitted on the 4th of January. He had a painful node on the
right

right tibia, seven inches in length, and a small node on the right ulna. He had taken no medicine during the preceding two years and a half.

In this and all the following cases, I employed the oxygenated muriate of potash, (procured at Mr. SPEED'S, of Cannon-Street,) which Dr. ROLLO informed me had been used constantly at the *Woolwich Hospital*.

January the 6th, I gave him ten grains of the pot-ash, made into two pills with wheat flour and mucilage of gum arabic.—The dose was augmented five grains every day. Eleven pills were taken on the 11th. of this month; at which time the patient's tongue was very white, his pulse 84 in a minute, and his perspiration considerable.—14th. The medicine had occasioned a salivation of three quarters of a pint each day, and encreased the frequency of his pulse to 96: The nocturnal pains were also alleviated.—18th. The salivation was augmented to twice as much as before, his gums were a little swelled and reddened, but his nodes were not at all diminished; he likewise perspired profusely. and had a quick pulse.—22nd. The

number of pills he took this day was twenty-two. The symptoms were much the same; except, that his tongue was more furred, and his stomach felt very hot after taking the medicine.—25th. Violent nocturnal pains have attacked his other tibia, and he has lately had a deafness and noise in his ears.—29th. The pains have got worse: The node is not smaller: He has every night a very copious flow of saliva.—February the 1st. The pills, of which he now takes 29, occasion great pain and heat in his bowels, as well as a scalding in his urine.—5th. His venereal symptoms are in no respect better than when he came into the hospital. The quantity of potash is now increased to *one hundred and sixty-five grains a day*.—8th. He has very bad pains in his *left* shin, and the two nodes are not in the least reduced. I ordered him to rub in mercurial ointment and omit the pills.—19th. The large node is much lessened and perfectly free from pain; that upon the ulna is quite well.—22nd. His tongue still remains very white, and his pulse beats 108 in a minute. He has not been able to rub in this week past; the salivation had suddenly increased to six pints in 24 hours, and his gums are exceedingly swelled.—March the

the 3rd. His pulse, tongue, and gums, are the same; but the spitting is reduced to three pints a day.—After this I saw him no more; He unexpectedly eloped.

C A S E III.

DENNIS CHRISTIAN, in the 24th year of his age, became a patient at the Lock Hospital, on the 18th of January, four months after having been infected with the venereal disease. He never took any thing for his complaints; which at this time where, a suppurating bubo in each groin, with chancres and syphilitic eruptions.—I directed thirty grains of oxygenated muriate of kali (in six pills) the first day, gradually encreasing it as in the foregoing case: A caustic was also applied to the inguinal abscesses, and a simple dressing to the chancres.—His medicine agreed with him till the 1st of February, when it produced a sense of heat and weight in the stomach and bowels: but it was nevertheless continued with regularity; only, that I ordered it to be given in a different form. Instead of pills, he was desired to take thirty grains, dissolved in some water, four times a day; and to encrease ten or fifteen grains every

future day.—8th. The powdered potash, taken as I last prescribed it, gives no pain in the stomach, and agrees very well. His urine is increased in quantity; his pulse feeble, and beats 118 in a minute; his tongue greatly furred, and whitish on its surface.—12th. Fresh eruptions are broken out upon his face! The medicine was yesterday, and the two preceding days, increased to the quantity of *one hundred and sixty grains*: He had taken two doses to day (forty grains each) before I saw him; but was now desired to omit the medicine, as I believed it to be useless.—*In the whole he took* FOUR OUNCES, SIX DRAMS, AND FIFTY FIVE GRAINS.—A complete cure was performed, by the 3rd. of May, in the usual manner; thirty calomel pills, and sixty drams of mercurial ointment, having then been employed.

C A S E IV.

GEORGE MILLER, aged 19, was admitted under my care, on the 18th of January, with venereal eruptions of one month's duration. He began with six pills of potash and mucilage the first day, and augmented the quantity by degrees till he took sixteen in the day; after which
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he had the powdered potash, as in the last case, beginning with half a dram four times a day.—January the 25th. A new set of venereal spots appeared on his body.—29th. More eruptions on his face: He complains of violent heat and oppression in his stomach, which prevent his sleeping.—February the 1st. He has a very bad head-ach, and pains in his joints every night.—4th. The powder makes him giddy; and his bowels and head are so much worse, that he has only taken sixty grains to day: Yesterday, he took *one hundred and fifty*. Some of the venereal spots look more dull than they did; but fresh ones still continue to make their appearance, and the nocturnal pains are excessively severe.—5th. I ordered equal parts of the potash and hog's lard to be mixed together; and two drams of this composition to be rubbed into his thighs every night and morning.—8th. Fresh spots come out on his face; his pains are no better; the ointment EXCORIATED HIS SKIN very much: He says the oily part is absorbed, but the salt always dries upon his skin and falls off.—It appearing to be frivolous to continue the farther use of the oxygenated muriate of potash, I ordered mercurial frictions. The eruptions

eruptions went away rapidly, and the patient was dismissed cured on the 5th day of April.—In this, and likewise in the foregoing case, the patient's gums were more affected by the mercury than has usually happened, where the nitrous acid was previously used; I mean, that the gums were rendered firm by the acid, but not by the potash.

CASE V.

DANIEL TURNEY, aged 38, applied to me on the 18th of January, with a deep and extensive ulceration of the glans penis, and large venereal ulcers upon his right leg. He told me he became infected fifteen months before, and had never used mercury for this disease. The sores were by mistake, dressed at first with the red nitrated mercurial cerate; his leg was only poulticed with linseed meal and boiling water. He took the same sort of pills as the other patients; and persisted in them till he had arrived at nineteen in a day, containing *ninety-five grains* of the oxygenated muriate of potash.—They were omitted on the 5th of February; at which time the chancres were nearly well, and his ulcerated leg much better: But, soon after, a pimple appeared on the right shoulder; which

which turned into an ulcer, and finally proved to be a true venereal sore, like those upon his leg. — This ulcer, however, healed under the application of a common digestive ointment; as likewise did all the other sores. Being struck with the singularity of these circumstances, I was induced to give the patient *pilulæ ex mica panis*, night and morning, till I could see the issue of the case. — Toward the latter end of March a sarcocele appeared; a fortnight afterwards the sore broke out again on his shoulder; a venereal incrustation came upon the head; an ulcer ensued in the posterior fauces, as large as a shilling; and, no doubt could remain of the syphilis being in a state of progression. — April the 12th. He commenced a course of mercurial friction. The symptoms yielded speedily, and were all cured by the time fifty-one drams of ointment were used. — He is still in the Hospital, and will probably be dismissed about the middle of June.

C A S E VI.

ESTHER BUCK, aged 33, was made a patient at the Lock, on the 4th of January. The symptoms under which she then laboured were a painful node upon the inferior part of the right tibia,
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a small ulcer in the roof of her mouth, and a slight ozæna. She informed me, that her first symptom, two years before, was a discharge from the vagina; that this was succeeded by the node about five months afterwards; that she had no other intervening complaint whatever; and that her mouth and nose did not become affected, till five or six weeks previous to her admission into the Hospital: She also said that her husband had been diseased two years, and was at that time (January, 1797) under the care of a medical gentleman. (c)

Thirty grains of oxygenated muriate of potash were given, in the form of pills.—The patient augmented the daily quantity by degrees, till the 29th; when she took twenty-eight pills, containing *an hundred and forty grains of potash*.—They occasioned a confusedness of intellect, and a giddiness in her head, when

(c) In several of the histories contained in this Essay, I have entered more minutely into the detail and order of the symptoms, than may seem to have been required by my subject: I have done so, not merely to satisfy the reader that my cases were properly selected; but likewise, with the view of *illustrating the natural history of syphilis*, which has been very imperfectly handled by the generality of writers.

when she had taken only fourteen a day : The node was then in more pain than ever ; the ozæna was worse ; and the palate no better. When she had arrived at twenty per diem, the pills caused a vomiting and pain in her stomach, to an alarming degree : Her pulse, however, was not more than ninety-two ; her tongue was not white ; she did not perspire ; but, a copious secretion of urine took place.—By a little management and caution she was enabled to encrease them, to the amount I have before suggested : About this time, a gonorrhæa came on, and encreased considerably ; the ozæna got better, by often using a saturnine lotion ; the ulcer on her palate remained stationary ; the tibia lessened a little, but continued very painful ; while, her pulse and secretions were not materially altered.—February the 1st. *Thirty* grains of the powdered muriate of potash were given *four times*, and ordered to be repeated daily.—5th. The solution of potash in water has agreed : the palate is nearly healed ; the nose quite well : Her pulse and secretions remain much the same ; but her tongue is not yet affected by the remedy. The only new occurrence, was an *ardor urinæ* these two last days.—Just before this period, I had been favoured with a communication from the Surgeons of

WOOLWICH HOSPITAL, concerning the cause and the remedy of this heat in the urine of patients taking oxygenated muriate of potash; in consequence of which, I decreased the daily quantity of that remedy to only *thirty* grains.—On the eighth, the heat and secretion of her urine were lessened: But she had taken *ninety* grains, during the last two days. I directed it to be continued in the same proportion.—12th. Her nose has got worse these four days.—15th. Again, her nose is better; but the gonorrhœa remains undiminished: I therefore ordered a vitriolic injection.—17th. This day she has had a violent pain in her head, with giddiness, vomiting, and purging.—The medicine was now entirely discontinued. The gonorrhœa has lessened: Her salivary glands are not at all affected: Her tongue is not yet white: Her pulse beats 100 in a minute.—26th. The vomiting and looseness are better; but the pain and giddiness are still excessive: Her pulse has risen to 106: *Venereal eruptions are appearing under the hair in the nape of her neck!*—I suspended all medical treatment, in order to see the farther progress of the symptoms; but, she went out of the hospital and returned no more.

The following is the communication above alluded to, from WOOLWICH HOSPITAL; which was enclosed in a letter from Dr. Rollo.

“ It would appear that in certain constitutions and states of the stomach, the oxygenated muriate of potash when given in large doses, instead of producing its usual effects upon the constitution, runs off by urine undecomposed; in such cases the patient generally complains of sharpness and heat of urine, with a frequent desire to pass it.—This fact was detected by the following simple process: The urine of a patient who had for some days been taking fifty grains four times a day, and who complained much of scalding, &c. was evaporated until it afforded, on cooling, a mass of impure crystals mixed with animal extractive matter; these crystals were separated and placed on filtering paper, and washed with a little alcohol, they were then re-dissolved in hot water, and suffered to crystallize a second time by cooling; by this means the oxygenated muriate of potash was obtained in crystals mixed with some ammoniacal salts, and common muriate of potash, and when thrown upon red hot coals, detonated with its usual vivid flame.”

“ From this fact it would appear that too large doses of this medicine, are not only unnecessary but prejudicial; as by exciting the action of the urinary organs too much, the whole or a considerable part may be carried off undecomposed, somewhat in the same manner as mercury is carried off when it produces purging. To avoid this inconvenience when detected, and which it may readily be by the process just described; the dose of the medicine should be diminished, and a small quantity of some acid as the nitrous, muriatic, or even vinegar given after each, by this means the salt must unavoidably be decomposed, and consequently rendered more active, both on the system and disease, as we have found from experience to be the case.”

Royal Artillery Hospital, Woolwich,

Feb. 2, 1798.

DEAR SIR,

Agreeable to my promise, I now forward you a perusal of Dr. Swediaur's chapter on Lues; and I embrace the opportunity it gives me to convey to you the above practical fact, with regard to the exhibition of the oxygenated muriate of potash, which has been ascertained in
this

this hospital by MR. CRUICKSHANK AND DR. WITTMAN.

I am, dear Sir,

very respectfully yours, &c. &c.

J. ROLLO.

To Mr. Blair,

Great Russel Street.

C A S E VII.

ELIZABETH HANDRY, 33 years of age, was taken into the Lock January the 18th; at which time she had a gonorrhæa, with nocturnal pains in her shins and syphilitic eruptions.—I ordered her the pills of oxygenated muriate of potash, as in the last case. No alteration of any kind took place before the 29th of January, when the nocturnal pains were aggravated: She then had encreased the number of her pills to twelve in a day.—February the 2nd. The quantity of her urine was augmented; she had a white tongue; her pulse was very feeble, and beat 88 times in a minute; the pains were as yet not alleviated, nor was there any amendment in the other symptoms. The potash was hereafter used in powder, half a dram four times a day.—5th. Her pulse was rendered much more frequent, (104); her tongue was very white; a diarrhæa had come on
these

these two days past; she perspired a little, and her urine was encreased. The preceding *letter from Dr. Rollo* induced me to diminish the quantity of potash this day, from an hundred and twenty to only thirty grains: I also ordered a grain of opium to be taken at bed time for three nights.—12th. Her pulse was very feeble and beat 124 in a minute; an extreme degree of erethism and tremor came on, accompanied with severe pain in her head, confused intellect, disordered stomach, and other inconveniences arising from the medicine: Her gonorrhœa also was greatly encreased, although she had hitherto used an astringent injection; but the venereal spots now looked paler. The oxygenated muriate of potash was omitted in consequence of the unpleasant symptoms it had occasioned.—15th. All the complaints last mentioned had gone off; and even the gonorrhœa was lessened, without having used any of the injection these three days. Her gums and salivary glands were unaffected by this treatment.—I could not but think the new medicine was in this case inefficient, and therefore directed a course of mercurial ointment.—All her venereal complaints gave way in a short time; and, on the 26th of April, I discharged her perfectly well.

CASE

C A S E VIII.

JOHN BROWN applied to me at the FINSBURY DISPENSARY, on the 22nd of December, 1797, and gave the following account of himself. About four years ago he had symptoms of the venereal disease, which a surgeon removed in a week : A considerable time afterwards one of his testicles became indurated and swelled ; this complaint was treated as a syphilitic infection by one of the surgeon's of St. Bartholomews' Hospital. — Having rubbed in mercurial ointment three weeks, the surgeon discharged him as cured : But soon after he had exposed himself to the air, a violent ptyalism and swelled mouth came on, which confined him at home several days. When his spitting ceased, the roof of his mouth inflamed and became painful ; and about eight days before I saw him, a very small aperture appeared in the soft palate.

On applying to me I could not doubt of this being a venereal case, and judged it a fit one for the trial of nitrous acid : After having given this medicine one week in the usual manner, as freely as the patient could bear it, I found the ulcer had got deeper and spread wider ; and therefore determined to administer
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the oxygenated muriate of potash.—He began on the 29th of December, by taking ten grains of the powder three times a day.—January the 2nd. He repeated it in doses of fifteen grains.—5th. Twenty grains were taken three times a day. He afterwards took *thirty* grains at each dose.—9th. The medicine had not in the smallest degree checked the progress of the ulceration. He was now in danger of loosing the whole of his palate, and I could not in conscience forbear administering mercury : But, as he went soon after to an hospital, I did not see the issue of the case.—During the latter part of the time of his taking the oxygenated muriate of potash, a copious discharge of saliva took place.

C A S E IX.

JOHN GIBBINS, became my patient at the FINSBURY DISPENSARY, in the autumn of 1797. He has been some time under the care of my colleague *Dr. Wells* ; but, a venereal eruption having broke out on his face and body, the Dr. transferred him to me. I treated him in the ordinary manner, with mercury, till the spots had nearly disappeared ; and then, to try whether the nitrous acid was capable of effecting

effecting a complete cure, I gave him two drams (from Apothecaries Hall) to be taken in a pint and a half of water daily.—This patient was one of the most fit subjects possible, for a course of experiments: He was perfectly conformable to every direction: He had the fullest confidence in my judgment: He lived in a situation where he was provided for, and where I could visit him from time to time: In short, he was one of the most tractable and patient beings imaginable. I have mentioned this, because the progress of his case is extraordinary, and it may assist in giving weight to what I shall add of his history.—He steadily persevered in taking the acid, without having any appearance of the lues or any unpleasant effect from the remedy, till the 7th of November; when a salivation came on.—17th. Fresh eruptions were discovered upon his legs. *Having now exhibited the acid forty-two days*, I discontinued it, and watched for the subsequent symptoms.—28th. Violent pains have attacked one of his arms, and a swelling has come on the left ulna. I amused him, and at the same time improved his general health, by ordering the daily use of a decoction of cascarilla.—Next day, he called to shew me a tumor on his right tibia,

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which

which was extremely tender. I directed fifteen grains of the compound powder of ipecacuan to be taken at bed-time, four successive nights.—December the 6th. His pains were better. The powder was repeated for six nights more.—January the 20th. I went on till this time, that the case might be in so distinct and unequivocal a form as to be fit for the OXYGENATED MURIATE OF POTASH. In addition to the nodes, eruptions, and nocturnal pains, a lardaceous ulcer has made its appearance on the left tonsil. He began to take twenty grains of the kali in a cup of water four times a day.—25th. The dose is augmented to thirty grains. No good effect is produced: His stomach and intestines are uneasy from the medicine.—30th. It has agreed lately, and he has even encreased the quantity to *forty grains*: But, to prevent his bowels from being affected, I ordered an opium pill every night at bed-time.—February the 6th. The opium is repeated, and the potash is hereafter to be taken *FIVE times a day, in the dose of forty grains*.—10th. He has continued it in the same dose; but the Lues Venerea seems still in progression, and the tonsil is more ulcerated: His appetite fails him; his urine diminishes in quantity; he has a constant thirst and dry

skin

skin; his bowels are griped and very hot; a cold shivering comes over him when he takes the kali; and he has a slight salivation, with a pain in his jaws, but not spongy gums.—February 14th. The tonsil is very deeply ulcerated and spreads wider; the spots are encreasing in number; the nodes much more painful; his gums are red and tender, but his breath is not fetid: The medicine now produces a universal tremor when he takes it, and has caused a languid intermitting pulse.—16th. He protests he has never yet missed taking his potash; but, the third dose to day occasioned such excruciating pain on one side of his abdomen, accompanied with a trembling motion of the heart, that he could not move his body from the spot where he lay, during the space of seven hours: At the end of that time, he was relieved by a diarrhæa and vomiting.—He has had a defective secretion by the kidneys till within the two last days, when he voided a considerable quantity of urine: His tongue has been furred and white, as in the former cases. His venereal spots are at length rather paler than they were; but the nodes are as large as before, and painful almost to distraction: The ulcerated tonsil is almost destroyed.

This was an experimentum crucis. He had taken the acid forty two days, and likewise employed about SEVENTY-SIX DRAMS OF THE OXYGENATED MURIATE OF POTASH. It was high time, after this decisive trial, to treat the man by other means.—On the 17th of February, I directed him to begin with the mercurial ointment, and to gargle his throat with a weak solution of muriated mercury. His symptoms yielded in ten days : The eruptions, the sore throat, his nocturnal pains, and one of the nodes, disappeared soon afterwards.—This patient being often exposed to the cold air, and finding the ointment to be absorbed with great difficulty, was advised to persevere in the use of mercury till the end of May.—He is at present in good health, and does not appear to have been much debilitated by so tedious a process.

C A S E X.

DAVID CAPON, aged 20, became my patient at the Lock, on the 11th of August 1796. Six months previous to that time, he had contracted a gonorrhæa, which was attended with a chordee and dysuria. When he applied to me, he had nocturnal pains, ozæna, and ulcers on the arm.

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He used sixty-three drams of the common mercurial ointment ; and, during his inunction, spat from a pint to a pint and a half every day.—I dismissed him, as cured, in the middle of October: But he returned to me on the 26th of January 1797, with a venereal hoarseness, pains in his bones, a crustaceous eruption upon the *alæ nasi*, and several blotches on his forehead.—Having seen this relapse after what was thought a proper course of mercury, I varied the treatment, by ordering *calomel ointment*. He was relieved in the usual time ; but continued the friction, till ninety-seven drams and a half had been employed.—There was, on this occasion, extreme difficulty in having his mouth affected, and in absorbing the ointment : I changed it for the *blue*, (in common use,) but without any advantage in these respects ; indeed, I found the *calomel ointment* to be rubbed in with greater facility than the other.—I discharged him apparently well on the 7th of April. This insidious disease, however, made its appearance on his nose a third time, by the 25th of May.—Nothing could be more perplexing and obstinate. I once more ordered the *blue ointment* ; and it was rubbed in with expedition, till eighty-four drams were used.

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It then caused a painful enlargement of his knee (not an uncommon effect of mercury) which made me discontinue its use.—I dismissed him again, in the latter end of July, after having been apparently cured more than one month: But, on the 13th of November following, he returned to me *a fourth time*, with precisely the same scabby eruption, which threatened to ulcerate his nose and upper lip; also a similar scab on the right shoulder; and a small tumor upon the left tibia, accompanied with nocturnal pains in his forehead and occiput.—I was extremely chagrined at these repeated relapses, and determined to try the new plan of cure.

November the 27th 1797. He began to take the nitrous acid, in the quantity of two measured drams; and was ordered to continue it every day.—December the 4th. He has had repeated attacks of violent pain in both his shins, which induced me to direct a grain of opium every night: He also has a node appearing on the right tibia.—11th. I increased the daily proportion of the acid to *three drams*. The scab spreads more upon his nose.—14th. Considerably worse.—18th. The acid gave extreme pain in his stomach during the whole day: I therefore

I therefore added a dram of the tincture of opium and three ounces of common treacle, to three drams of the acid, diluted with a quart of water.—20th. The acid medicine will not remain upon his stomach: Add two ounces of Jamaica pepper water to the same mixture I last prescribed.—25th: He continues to take the acid, but with the greatest difficulty.—29th. The medicine still makes him sick, and cannot be persevered in any longer. None of his complaints, except the pains, are any better. I directed him on the same day to take five grains of the OXYGENATED MURIATE OF POTASH three times, and to augment the quantity every day after.—January the 8th. His pulse had encreased to 106 in a minute; his tongue had become white; but no unusual secretion had taken place; nor was his disease yet affected by the potash.—15th. He now takes ninety-five grains in a day: His gums are inflamed and swelled; but, not at all spongy, nor is his breath offensive: His pulse has arisen to 122: His nose and shoulder are manifestly better, especially the latter; and his pains are still more alleviated.—22nd. He takes a hundred and twenty-five grains to day: His nose remains stationary; The shoulder is well: The nocturnal

tural pains are quite gone : His pulse only 108 : His tongue still white : He spits very little ; but sweats considerably : His strength fails ; and he is become extremely dejected.—29th. I now perceived his nose to get sore within the nostrils, while the scab upon the outside remained : Several inequalities were also observable on the tibiæ ; but they were not painful. *His daily dose of the potash at last was one hundred and fifty five grains :* It certainly made him very irritable and feeble, as well as injured his appetite. Upon the whole I saw no encouragement to persist in this plan of treatment : The man had already lost nine weeks ; during which period, he took as much acid and oxygen as ought to have cured him, if they had been possessed of anti-venereal properties.—January the 30th. He began a course of mercurial friction. After sixty-four drams had been employed, he was apparently well ; but I made him an out patient, and ordered five grains of the blue pill night and morning : He continued them till the 19th of April, when I desired them to be omitted. He promised to return, if any venereal symptoms should again occur.—Is not this a lamentable example of that singular *idiosyncrasy*, which baffles the most cautious and skillful

skilful practitioners? His first course of mercury would have cured nineteen ordinary cases out of twenty, and the second probably would not have failed once in fifty patients.

C A S E X I.

DANIEL DUNCARTY, aged 40, became infected with the Venereal Disease, about Michaelmas, 1796. He was neglectful of his situation, and said he never took any mercury.—September the 28th, 1797, I admitted him at the Lock Hospital, with very numerous eruptions of five weeks duration. He had, at this time, no other complaint; although he formerly had a gonorrhœa and chancres.—October the 2nd. He began to take two drams of the nitric acid, from Apothecaries Hall, properly diluted and sweetened.—9th. It agreed with him, and caused the spots to fade away.—12th. The eruptions are still going off.—16th. Hitherto the warm bath has been used twice a week, together with the nitric acid. I now ordered him to desist from bathing, and to repeat the medicine.—19th. He tells me that the warm bath, at each time of using, has always dispersed the eruptions: He still amends; although his lips and cheeks are now ulcerated by

the local action of the acid.—25th. His lips and gums are much more affected by the acid, though he takes it through a glass tube; and he spits three pints in twenty-four hours. 30th.—The spots are as much dispersed as they would have been by a mild course of mercury.—November the 2nd. The daily proportion of the acid was reduced to only one dram, on account of the state of his mouth: A small glandular swelling appears above his left elbow, which gives considerable pain; and an hoarseness (peculiar to the venereal disease) has likewise begun to be troublesome.—13th. The nitric acid has been continued till this day; when it was deemed superfluous to use it any longer. *He has taken it regularly forty-two days.* From the present period, till the 4th of January, he was absent from the hospital and took nothing: He then returned, with his face as thickly beset with pustular syphilitic eruptions as ever I saw a patient, and with a considerable number upon various parts of his body. He told me they began to make their appearance *three weeks* after he had quitted the Lock. His hoarseness also was now very bad.—I thought this a fair experiment with the acid, and determined to give as full a trial to the OXYGENATED MURIATE OF POTASH.

January the 5th, 1798. Thirty grains of this medicine were given him in six pills, and I ordered them to be encreased gradually from day to day.— By the time his daily quantity was augmented to nineteen pills, (each containing five grains of the potash) his hoarseness was better, and the eruptions in his face had diminished; but those upon his body were the same as before.—22nd. He now takes a hundred and fifty grains a day, without any unpleasant effect, except a violent itching over his body: His tongue is become white, and his pulse more frequent than natural.—29th. The eruptions are in general paler than they were.—February the 1st. His pills agree perfectly; but as they have been encreased to so large a number as thirty-three, I now desired *forty grains of the potash to be given in water five times a day* instead of them.—5th. He has continued to take TWO HUNDRED GRAINS EACH DAY without any inconvenience to his stomach: His lips and cheeks, which had been ulcerated by the local action of the acid, and have never got well since, are much more swelled, and very painful: He *still* spits three pints every day; but has no other encreased secretion: His pulse is rather soft and frequent: His tongue is white: His sublingual glands

glands are tumefied and tender: Fresh eruptions are appearing, and the old ones are more vivid than they were a fortnight before.—8th. *The spots are become more numerous on his face, after having taken* SEVEN OUNCES AND FIVE GRAINS OF THE OXYGENATED MURIATE OF POTASH. It now seemed frivolous to persevere, and I actually was ashamed to forbid mercurial inunction any longer. He used a dram every night and morning, until the 15th of May; during the whole of which time his gums remained *firm*, his ptyalism diminished from three pints to one, the swelling and ulcerations of his mouth got well, and I even thought he bore the mercury better than usual: But, I did not perceive that his venereal symptoms yielded more readily than common.—He at this time eloped unexpectedly, and I have not seen him since.

These are all the cases, in which I have fairly exhibited the oxygenated muriate of potash: I shall, in the next part of this Essay, detail some recent communications from various medical gentlemen; which will, it is hoped, afford sufficient ground to deduce a few important practical conclusions.



